



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Alejandra Botia, Alireza Kamyabi, Alison McClean, Anurag Krishna, Ashni Gill, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Georgia Yee, Devarsh Bhonde, Aaron Loewen, Adenike Adelokun, Aditi Nagaraj Nallan, Andrew Zang, Axel Hauduc, Bethany Adair, Charfeddine Khalifa, Daniel He, Edgar Liao, Gillian Glass, Ginny Pichler, Hannah Green, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Julia Burnham, Kira Vandermeulen, Leila Matte-Kaci, Lisa White, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Mohamed Kamel, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Mostafa Hagar, Nicolas Romualdi, Sarah Park, Saumadritaa Kar, Sofie McComb, Temitayo Olarewaju, Perrin Waldock, Taryn Scarff, William Canero, Yundi Wang; Christian Koch, Sam Kenston, Benni Beltramo (Electoral and Student Engagement Officer), Anna-Elaine Rempel (ABCS)

**Regrets:**

**Absent:** Maryam Tayyab, Max Holmes, Rachel Philips, Saud Lingawi, Shiva Zargar, Teesha Luehr, Torin McLachlan, Younus Ahmed

**Quorum:** 17 Councillors

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:31 pm**.

### SPECIAL RULES ADOPTION

**WHEREAS** the Council has not yet established in the policy suspending of Roberts Rules of Order and,

**WHEREAS** a similar decision has been made in the past and proved fruitful,

**BIRT** the Council adopts the following special rules of order for this Council meeting:

- Each member’s speaking time limit per speaking turn is 3 minutes unless extended by the Council or otherwise specified in the agenda.
- The time limit of debate for each motion is 20 minutes unless extended by the Council; and
- There is no limit on how many times a member can speak on each motion.

**MOVER:** Nicolas Romualdi                      **SECONDER:** Marie Athie Martinez                      **RESULT:** Carried

### AGENDA ADOPTION

**BIRT** the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER:** Andrew Zang                      **SECONDER:** Maria Athie Martinez                      **RESULT:** Carried

### DISCUSSION

**Speaker:** Kimani isn’t able to make it tonight, so the presiding officer is Nicolas (VPUAA).

### TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Nicolas:** Welcome everybody to the GSS meeting. The GSS acknowledges that the GSS and UBC Vancouver campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam people. The GSS also acknowledges its own history of



misappropriation of the Haida symbol which used to be the GSS logo. We thank the Musqueam nation and in particular to Susan Point for their collaboration with us in our own reconciliation process. And we look forward to a future collaboration with indigenous peoples of Canada. Thank you.

## INTRODUCTIONS

[Introductions]

## 1 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

*At the discretion of the President, the following are deemed urgent matters for Council and are presented at the beginning of Council (not exceeding 10mins):*

### 1.1 2021 ABCS LOBBY DAYS AND ABCS ADVOCACY YEAR-IN-REVIEW

**Responsible:** Alireza Kamyabi (VP External); Grace Dupasquier (ABCS Chairperson)

**Description:** Guest presentation to GSS Council; 10 minutes with Q&A period

**Purpose:** To inform Council of asks and recommendations put forward in 2021 ABCS Lobby Days as well as ABCS advocacy efforts Year-in-Review

## DISCUSSION

**Alireza:** I'll take this moment to reiterate the importance of collaborating with other graduate student unions. Without this we'd never be able to achieve what we have this year. Really like to thank Anna-Elaine for the work she did this year as executive director and making sure the ABCS and all our members are active, that we're hearing from everybody. Even though the GSS is the only graduate student member in ABCS, we've really done some excellent work to make sure that graduates and voices are heard by the Ministry, and been able to deliver real victories. I will discuss in later presentations, up to \$7 million in funding from the Ministry. Thank you again for all your work and the excellent presentation.

**Nicolas:** As acting chair, thank you to Anna and the whole ABCS team for what they've done this year. Always good to see you.

### 1.2 CUPE UNION 2278: TA RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Responsible:** Gillian Glass (CUPE 2278 President)

**Description:** Guest presentation to GSS Council; 10 minutes with Q&A period

**Purpose:** To provide councillors with pertinent information about the rights of Teaching Assistants and Markers at the end of term. The councillors are kindly asked to spread this information as widely as possible in their department so that all 2278 members, all across (the virtual) campus, are apprised of their rights under the Collective Agreement.

**Relevant Materials:** [CUPE 2278 - GSS Presentation April 2021.pdf](#)

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [March 18, 2021](#)

**MOVER:** Maria Athie Martinez

**SECONDER:** Leila Matte-Kaci

**RESULT:** Carried



## 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>		<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	March 11, 2021; March 23, 2021
<b>Code and Policy Committee:</b>	March 3, 2021; March 17, 2021	<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	
<b>Elections Committee:</b>	February 2, 2021; March 3, 2021	<b>Services Committee:</b>	February 3, 2021; February 17, 2021; March 3, 2021
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	March 12, 2021	<b>AMS Caucus:</b>	
<b>Executive Oversight Committee:</b>	January 29, 2021; March 8, 2021	<b>Graduate Council Caucus:</b>	
<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	November 26, 2020; January 28, 2021; February 25, 2021	<b>Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:</b>	March 19, 2021; March 31, 2021
<b>All-Chairs Meeting:</b>	March 12, 2021		

**MOVER:** Devarsh Bhonde

**SECONDER:** Maria Athie Martinez

**RESULT:** Carried

## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Anurag Krishna	Civil Engineering
Mohamed Kamel	Civil Engineering
Saumadritaa Kar	Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Sofie McComb	Forest and Conservation Sciences

**MOVER:** Sarah Park

**SECONDER:** Andrew Zang

**RESULT:** Carried

### 3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.

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

BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
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AMS Caucus		Representative	1
Graduate Council		Representative	0
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

**MOVER:** Aaron Loewen

**SECONDER:** Kira Vandermeulen

**RESULT:** Carried

## DISCUSSION

**Jackson:** AMS Council represents the general student body at UBC, in charge of operation of the Next, run the Health and Dental Plan and many important services like SASC. If you want to represent grad students to that body, I'd recommend nominating yourself to this.

### 3.3 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.

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

**BIRT** the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External	Sofie McComb, Anurag Krishna	Councillor	2
	Sarah Ebert	Ordinary Member	1
Code & Policy		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	2
Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	5
Executive Oversight		Councillor	3
	Ritwik Bhattacharjee	Ordinary Member	4
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	4
House Finance		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	3
Human Resources	Leila Matte-Kaci	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	4
Services	Aditi Nagaraj Nallan	Councillor	2
	Mostafa Hagar	Ordinary Member	3
Strategic Planning ad-hoc	Mohamed Kamel	Councillor	1
	Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Christian Koch	Ordinary Member	3



**MOVER:** Andrew Zang                      **SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen                      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (22):** Nevena Rebic, Shiva Zargar, Aaron Loewen, Alireza Kamyabi, Gillian Glass, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Edgar Liao, Andrew Zang, Jenny Lee, Hannah Green, Axel Hauduc, Lisa White, Perrin Waldock, Leila Matte-Kaci, Kira Vandermeulen, Daniel He, Sarah Park, Yundi Wang, Nicolas Romualdi, Maria Jose Martinez, Taryn Scarff, William Canero

## DISCUSSION

**Axel:** I'd like to nominate Christian Koch for Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee as Ordinary Member. Also a general motivation for SPAHC, hopefully still have Councillor and Ordinary Member positions open. If you like big pictures and planning, this is the committee for you.

**Devarsh:** I would like to motivate for joining House Finance Committee. We look after financial wellbeing, budget, auditing and stuff like that. Things like the Uber voucher you received today, small things like that but also big things like executive salaries, or rent we charge to rental properties like Koerner's Pub. Or investing the hundreds of thousands we have in the bank, things like that. If you want to make big impact decisions, do consider joining HF Committee. Money is what moves the world, and we are what moves the money. In addition, if you show up to any HF meeting, we give you an Uber Eats voucher for attending, whatever gets you going.

**Jin:** I'd like to motivate for Governance & Accountability Committee. Purpose is to ...governance, adherence to Strategic Plan. We make recommendations to Council on ways of amending certain practices to run more efficiently, also monitor progress of each committee on progress of Strategic goals. If you have a dying passion for learning how an organization functions or wanting to maximize efficiency, this is the committee for you.

**Aaron:** Here to motivate for Code and Policy Committee. CPC works to upkeep the many governing documents of the Society, notably the Bylaws and Policies. We get to work with executives and committees when they want to change these. You learn a lot about the Society, how it works, experience lots of committees while staying in CPC. Especially if you're new, this would be a great place to be.

**Tayo:** I want to nominate an ordinary member, the full name is Ritwik Bhattacharjee for Executive Oversight Committee.

## 3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

**BIRT** the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Elections Committee	Charfeddine Khalifa

**MOVER:** Maria Athie Martinez                      **SECONDER:** Shiva Zargar                      **RESULT:** Carried

## 4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

**WHEREAS** the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization,  
**BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in April 2022:



Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
UBC Black Graduate Student Network	Saleh Ismail
Children’s Literature Student Association at UBC	Minori Kato-Hopkins

**MOVER:** VP Students

**SECONDER:** Nicolas Romualdi

**RESULT:** Carried

## 4.2 HONORARY MEMBER NOMINATIONS

**WHEREAS** the following members have contributed significantly to the Graduate Student Society in the course of their terms, and

**WHEREAS** they satisfy the conditions stated in Bylaw 3.2.1,

**BIRT** the following members be conferred honorary membership in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.1:

Alireza Kamyabi, Arash Shadkam, Christina Weismann, Kate Sedivy-Haley, Lily Takeuchi, Natalie Marshall, Nicolas Romualdi, Pouya Rezaeinia, Sarah Park, Victoria Gomez, and

**BIFRT** the GSS Council directs the Code and Policy Committee to update the list of Honorary Members in the Policy Manual.

**MOVER:** Maria Athie Martinez

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (22):** Axel Hauduc, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Jackson Schumacher, Taryn Scarff, Daniel He, Sofie McComb, Charf Khalifa, Bethany Adair, Leila Matte-Kaci, Perrin Waldock, Maria Jose Martinez, William Canero, Yundi Wang, Lisa White, Jenny Lee, Kira Vandermeulen, Shiva Zargar, Gillian Glass, Jin Wen, Aaron Loewen, Nevena Rebic, Andrew Zang; **ABSTAIN (3):** Sarah Park, Alireza Kamyabi, Nicolas Romualdi

## DISCUSSION

**Maria:** Point of information, for everybody who doesn’t know, could you say what an honorary member is? And just want to thank everybody who’s on the list. I know all the hard work you’ve been doing for the society, thank you for being here and supporting with all your efforts.

**Nicolas:** We are all ordinary members as long as we’re currently enrolled at UBC Vancouver or graduate-majority program. Our membership expires as soon as we graduate. Honorary membership was established so those who contributed can participate for life. They don’t get to vote, or attend AGM, and they don’t pay fees. Honorary members are recognized with recognition – minimum contribution must be 18 months cumulative. All names quoted have served for at least 18 months. Would also like to speak strongly in favour for Natalie Marshall and Kate Sedivy-Haley. This is not of course in detriment to anybody else. But these are two women that have contributed extraordinarily to the society. I'm going to go out and say that they were two presidents that we should have had and never had. In my first meeting at the GSS, Natalie Marshall delivered two presentations. I was in that meeting by accident proxying for somebody out of a favour. She was so impressive that it led to four years of service to the GSS. She laid out the vision for all the changes that we experienced that brought the GSS to the level it currently is, from a society that couldn't meet quorum for three months in a row. She has done contributions and her impact still lives today, through many of us that have had the pleasure to serve alongside her. Very similarly, Kate had a point where she was at every committee of the society actively contributing to every single committee. That's all volunteer work. That made a difference that once again, we still experience the benefits of today. I expect this motion to pass, I don't think my endorsement was necessary. But I think it's important that we continue to remember these people that didn't necessarily hold an executive role, but had an impact not only on the society, but many members who continue to serve in the society today, that goes far beyond what you could possibly expect out of a person, we owe a lot to both of them. And to be fair to many of



the people in that list, I say many because I'm on the list, but I guess this is my thank you to all of them. And really in particular to Natalie and Kate, if there were ever two people that should have been President of the society and weren't, it's those two, they were just amazing.

### 4.3 PRIVACY POLICY AMENDMENTS

**Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, Privacy Policy Assistant (Jiwan Sangha), VP External

**Description:** The GSS Privacy Policy has been identified as being outdated and required updating. The GSS has hired a Privacy Policy Assistant to create new privacy policies as well as assisting in implementing these changes. The resulting work of this position is being presented today as well as implementing these changes to our Policy Manual.

**Objective:** To approve policy changes related to GSS privacy policy.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Relevant Materials:** [Presentation from Jiwan Sangha]; [Policy Revision Form - Privacy Policy.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the GSS Privacy Policy requires updating to be aligned with the PIPA and the current practices and standards of privacy policy in BC,

**BIRT** the policy amendments and additions from Policy Revision Form - Privacy Policy.docx be implemented as presented.

**MOVER:** Alireza Kamyabi                      **SECONDER:** Maria Athie Martinez                      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (27):** Elections Chair, Nicolas Romualdi, Leila Matte-Kaci, Jackson Schumacher, Gillian Glass, Taryn Scarff, Aaron Loewen, Shiva Zargar, Maria Jose Martinez, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Sofie McComb, Axel Hauduc, Hannah Green, Andrew Zang, Nevena Rebic, Yundi Wang, Bethany Adair, Adenike Adelakun, Jin Wen, William Canero, Lisa White, Kira Vandermeulen, Alireza Kamyabi, Perrin Waldock, Sarah Park, Daniel He, Jenny Lee

### DISCUSSION

**Nicolas:** In the previous motion I had the chance to recognize the contributions of exemplary members. We don't get the chance to do so for staff nearly often enough. Pleasure to work with Jiwan. Everyone who has been on Council long enough, everyone knows I always have something bad to say, nothing bad to say about Jiwan. Thank you so much for your work. You've really moved us forward on this issue.

### 4.4 POLICY 6.2 DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES CALCULATIONS

**Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, Governance & Accountability Committee

**Description:** Currently, there is severe underrepresentation of these academic units in Council (only ~1/3). The ultimate goal is to have all academic units represented, but first we have to determine who these units are. Using multiple sources including the GSS and departmental websites, academic units were identified. To identify Academic Units and to actively determine vacancies on Council, G&A will perform a biennial review of Academic Units and number of students in each.

**Objective:** To approve policy changes related to calculating departmental representatives for GSS Council.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Relevant Materials:** [Policy Revision Form - Policy 6.2 Departmental Representatives and Appendix XVI.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** there is a severe underrepresentation of academic units in GSS Council, and

**WHEREAS** there has been no regular review of academic units and the open positions of these units in the GSS Council,

**BIRT** the policy amendments and additions from Policy Revision Form - Policy 6.2 Departmental Representatives and Appendix XVI be implemented as presented.



**MOVER:** Aaron Loewen

**SECONDER:** Jenny Lee

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (26):** Sofie McComb, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Alireza Kamyabi, Daniel He, Ginny Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Jenny Lee, Shiva Zargar, Leila Matte-Kaci, Jackson Schumacher, Sarah Park, Andrew Zang, Aaron Loewen, Perrin Waldock, Yundi Wang, Axel Hauduc, Bethany Adair, Adenike Adelakun, Kira Vandermeulen, Taryn Scarff, William Canero, Charf Khalifa, Gillian Glass, Lisa White, Maria Jose Martinez, Hannah Green; **ABSTAIN (1):** Jin Wen

## DISCUSSION

**Aaron:** Basically, as description states, the changes are intended on keeping the GSS on academic unit lists, keep this updated every two years and allow for proper allocation of dept reps on Council. This task will be given to G&A to perform. This has also given G&A the responsibility to review the allotted number of departmental seats for each academic unit to ensure that each unit has the correct number of representatives for Council.

**Nicolas:** Just want to make sure from them if they've made sure that the wording of the policy does not conflict with the Bylaws that states the representatives for departments, just double checking that thank you.

**Jin:** We consulted with Kimani prior to submitting this, he attended one of our committee meetings last month. We figured it should not be any conflict with the other policy.

**Alireza:** I want to support this motion. When I first joined GSS back in 2019, there was a real question about who were all the seats of departmental representatives in GSS, and what was the composition of Council? This has been a great undertaking and would like to particularly thank Ginny from G&A for looking at multiple lists from GPS website to help decide academic units and with the appendix that you'll see added to the policy manual, we'll have a final list of all academic units and departmental representative seats in Council, which has been a great undertaking and I think a very positive and true improvement going forward. So I'd like to thank G&A for all their work and particularly Ginny.

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 2021 ELECTIONS REPORT

**Responsible:** Mostafa Hagar (Elections Committee Chair), Benni Beltramo (Elections and Student Engagement Officer)

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Description:** A presentation about the overall procedure for elections this year. This presentation should have been delivered last meeting but was postponed to discuss an appeal.

**Objective:** To brief Council on the performance of the election procedures and open the floor for suggestions/recommendations for consideration.

**Relevant materials:** [2021 Elections Report.pdf](#)

## DISCUSSION

**Nicolas:** Everyone has caught onto the fact that I'm in the mood to speak a lot, it's my last chance for 4 years, bear with me. I don't have any questions other than I want to recognize the effort that you put in, the integrity with which you and the Elections Committee conducted themselves. You went into one of the possibly most difficult election seasons that we've ever had. And this is going to come up with a presentation that I'm going to make. I want to acknowledge the emotional labour this must have taken. This is what I want to emphasize the need for an open conversation for the Society. How do we support our members, chairs, committees, executives, who are dealing with an extraordinary amount of emotional labour and stress due to extraordinary circumstances? Want to congratulate you, Elections, and Benni for putting up with the extraordinary amount of stuff you had to deal with.



## 5.2 SERVICES AND ELECTIONS CONSULTATION

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**Responsible:** Andrew Zang (Chair, Services Committee)

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Description:** Discussion on Services and Elections merging/working together

**Objective:** Get Council's opinion

**Relevant materials:** [Services and Elections.pptx](#)

### DISCUSSION

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**Axel:** I have a few questions. If a super committee is formed, would having a 1.5x size committee be considered because I would see one of the advantages of this is since the workload peaks are different times, that would allow a condensed committee to do both, and have maybe a few more councillors and other committee positions. And second of all, completely outside of that. I know that a lot of committees have ex-officio members in other committees. I was wondering what the state of that was, and if simply expanding this for it to kind of deepen the relationship between Services and Elections, through ex-officio memberships and joint projects was an option.

**Andrew:** I definitely agree with you that 1.5 times the amount of members is definitely a very valid idea in terms of condensing it, of course, you get to a point where it could get messy to organize or might be difficult to reach quorum and certain things. So I think 15, or 1.5 the amount of people on the committee is something we're considering. Of course, I'm not sure how that works, because I think there's supposed to be an even number between councillors and ordinary members. So maybe it has to be 16. I don't know, this is up for logistical discussion, but very valid point. Thank you for that. And the second part is, I think, what you mentioned, there would be definitely a reason for the committees to stay separate, if this is what Council feels would be better. In terms of how we work this year, we were very fortunate to have the staff and the Elections chair on the Services Committee, and there was a lot of communication between the committee and him. So yes, that coordination worked out very well. It's not necessarily going to always be like that, depending on how certain people work. So it's definitely one of the options that we were considering is that we'll just stay separate and work together. The topic that we're discussing today, of course, is would it potentially be better just to actually be merged or, I guess, compelled to work together at an official capacity?

**Jackson:** The one question I had, the one issue I foresee with the striking and ad-hoc committee route, is that you might not be able to fill that committee considering it will be two-thirds of the way through the term. And, you know, we have a zillion vacancies on all of our committees as is, so I wanted to know if that was something that you all had considered.

**Andrew:** That's also a very valid concern. It's not something we had considered in terms of- it's definitely something that could be a possible deterrent to that method. I'm fully in agreement with you there. It should be something that we're going to consider heavily going forward. I guess the way that we're looking at it now, we're at such an early stage that we kind of need to figure out if there's even a direction that we want to move before we start evaluating all that, but no, that's a very great point. And we'll factor that into the decision that we decide to move forward with.

**Mostafa:** In this case, the ad hoc committee, their job is to do the absolute most required stuff in the election. So, making sure that it's fair and stuff like that. So I guess, if we were to do the ad hoc committee route, what you could have is that in the event that Services cannot fill the ad hoc committee, then it has to stop the engagement work that it's doing, and then dedicate itself to doing the election? I don't know, that's just one route. So I feel like there might be ways to make sure that it's always full no matter what, just a matter of shifting priorities.

**Nicolas:** So the applicable policies, there's two questions on the floor, which is what size of committee, and one is the committee that deals in particular with the election, if I understand this correctly. So to the first question, which is the size of the committee, every standing committee of the society has by default, five councillors and five ordinary members and as many



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ex-officio member, as established by terms of reference according to policy 7.2.1. However, policy 7.2.2 establishes that notwithstanding policy 7.2.1, any terms of reference of a committee can set a different number of members with any combination of ordinary or councillors for that particular committee. This was, funny enough, something we thought through which Kate Sedivy at that time to make sure that every committee that required a different structure would have the opportunity to strike that structure. So it's built into the general committee policy. So 7.2.2 will allow for any different committee structure that is required. So 15, 16, and whatever combination of ordinary members is allowable. In terms of the ad-hoc committee, I would suggest that that's not the appropriate structure, the appropriate structure would be to invoke the subcommittee policy. So the subcommittee policy establishes that a committee can establish a subcommittee. This is established in policy 7.6.1, any committee can establish a subcommittee by majority vote of the committee. So if there were a super committee that was elections and engagement or however you want to call that committee, could by ordinary resolution of the committee establish an elections subcommittee and populate that committee from amongst its members, which wouldn't be an ad-hoc committee, which will require a resolution of Council and a terms of reference approved by Council, but it would just be an ordinary resolution of the committee that we require at the time of the election to be passed by the committee to establish the subcommittee that would deal with the particular issues of the election. I think that I've explained that if there's any questions, I'm happy to answer. Thank you.

**Gillian:** I'd like to, Madam Chair, thank the committees for bringing this forward. I think these sorts of discussions are important. And when arriving at a stalemate, Council can certainly weigh in. I also reiterate all of the thoughts and concerns that have been raised regarding size of committee, unwieldiness of committee, so on and so on. I'm wondering if, and maybe I just didn't understand the presentation, and that's always possible. I'm wondering if this is sort of understood as being two separate groups, but working together, or if it's really going to become one full group where 100% of the people work on 100% of the projects, which I appreciate the fact that there's an ad hoc committee discussion would sort of incline one to believe that there's going to be multiple groups here. And so I'm just wondering how the mandate would get divvied up if it works together. And I'm wondering, so the committees presented the reasons for which they think this would be a good idea. I'm wondering, what about the current situation is untenable that has resulted in them wanting to merge? So that's my first real question. And my second real question is, what are the list of pros and cons? What are the foreseeable cons that the committees can see arising from this merge, just so that we all go into this fully aware of everything?

**Andrew:** So the first question, what are the current situations that make us want to talk about the merging and why. Okay, we're not in a position where we're saying the committees cannot function separately. We did have a situation where, and I'm not sure traditionally, how far back this has been something that has been observed. But in the recent time, and this could have been due to certain people graduating and so on. The Elections Committee had a period where they had trouble getting enough members in order to actually put in the workload and run these elections. So in that sense, one of the things that sort of brought this idea to the table in the first place was that we had a lot of people power from Services and we typically have a pretty full list there, of course, not saying this is going to be a situation always, I'm just saying that's one of the reasons that this came up. We're not saying that the two committees cannot operate separately, of course they can. And that's what we want to bring this the Council. But what we're trying to discuss is the potential for benefits for actually just working together. Because we both care about engagement. As committees, we both have a lot of push power, and people power in terms of making those things happen. We have the Event Manager sitting on our committee and the ESEO sitting on the Elections Committee and so on. If we were to coordinate a lot of these people, and this kind of people power together, there is the potential for a bigger push towards engagement. I know we've had a lot of discussions about this in separate meetings. But engagement is always an issue. And it's a humongous issue for any capacity of governing bodies out there. And so to tackle an issue this big, there is potential for these two committees to have a benefit for working together. And in terms of moving forward with that, in relation to your second question, the foreseeable cons, that's something that we thought about a few things, for instance, the potential for logistically this to be messy, or the potential for having too many seats and not being able to fill them and not being able to reach quorum, and so on and so forth. This is one of the reasons we want to bring this to Council is if anybody sees any blaring foreseeable cons that we're just not seeing. Of course, we have the option to just stay separate. And if that is the better way, then we want to hear about that. But that's kind of why we're bringing this topic to the table.



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**Sarah:** A couple of comments that I wanted to bring up is first about using the term “super committee”. I know that kind of insinuates the feeling that the committee is going to be huge, which is not necessarily the case, it's just “super committee” because of the fact that it's being merged. I'd also like to note the fact that both committees aren't full right now. So it's not like it's going to become a 16-person committee per se. Second is that we did have that vote, which became a stalemate within Services Committee. But it wasn't a stalemate between all three options; everyone on Services Committee was stuck between either the option of just merging completely or merging and having that ad hoc committee. So everyone on the committee did vote to do some sort of merging and we just wanted to know a little bit more on that, just want to make that clear to Council. Regarding the pros and cons, I know that Andrew touched on a little bit. In terms of one pro, and especially because I did sit on the committee for the past year, one thing is that by merging, as mentioned, the peak periods, especially from Elections Committee, a kind of more consistent lull and services committee would merge. So overall, it would be a more consistent workload on par with all of the other committees and an additional con perhaps might be that there's less spots for councillors, because we're merging two committees. But again, as Andrew mentioned, since both committees have power, I think that's totally fine. And then in terms of logistics, I think the beauty of these changes is that it comes with work, and it might end up with a better result. So I don't think we should necessarily shy away from doing something because it might add some work to it. So those are just a couple two cents that I wanted to add regarding this discussion.

**Nicolas:** I'm going to be if you allow me the grandpa in the room and speak about a little bit of history here. The chair of supercommittee doesn't necessarily apply because the whole intent when we passed 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 was to allow for committees to have different structures should a particular community needed to have one. Originally to me, committees only had eight members, five councillors and three ordinary members. So there's no reason why committees need to have a balanced number of ordinary and counselors. This was just the expansion of the number of ordinary members was as a result of all our committees being filled up and we tend to open up more spaces for ordinary members into the Society. On the question of a committee being larger than 10 members, that's not a super committee, it's simply a committee- that's the point that I'm trying to make. It has a different structure than a regular committee. And that committee has a different structure precisely because it acknowledges that during a particular point of the year, there's a peak in work that is not present throughout the year, which is kind of the problem that we now have with the Elections Committee is that it experiences a peak of work, let's say between December and March, but then for the rest of the year, it kind of plateaus and there's a little bit of attrition, and people are not retained throughout the next year. So these are created proposals to try to merge committees, which fundamentally share the objective of increasing engagement from the general membership at different times. Services is trying to increase engagement through events throughout the year, Elections tries to do it just for the elections, but trying to combine the increase in engagement effort and acknowledge this peak of work by creating a subcommittee for a part of the year is maybe a smart strategy. I'm not necessarily saying this is the right or the wrong way to go. I'd just like to acknowledge that this is good that we're thinking about this. And thank you to the chair for both committees, and CPC for thinking about it. And I think it's being presented as a discussion, it is something to think about. The committees will hear our thoughts, go back, and think about what seems to fit the will of Council.

**Mostafa:** I wanted to speak to Gillian's question about what's wrong with the current setup. This year, Election Committee's focus was diverted solely to educating the election, and managing the rules, handling the candidates and stuff like that. So, you know, this year, we had to turn to Services to help with running events and communications and whatnot. And the other thing is, for that particular task, like running events, Elections Committee doesn't actually have neither the experience, nor the connections that Services has as far as doing that. So they're more set up for it, you know, the Events Manager is right there, the VP Students is right there. It sort of makes sense to split the labor that way where Elections Committee focuses on policing the election, and then Services, seems like this year they focused on the engagement stuff. And it's like, oh, this is a pretty good dynamic, why not have this be more formalized? These are the pros. And I feel like one con that didn't come up yet, is the fact that, like I mentioned, Services does work with the VP Students. So one thing that has to be considered here is possibly presenting a conflict of interest around election time. Because, let's say the VP Students wants to run again, or at least they might be perceived as having influence over their successor. I don't know. So that's something that has to be worked out. And the other thing is now you're increasing the pool of people who cannot be involved with the elections. So presumably, if we



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went through with this, nobody on Services Committee could be a candidate. So that's one thing you have to keep in mind is that you're revoking that privilege, I guess from a lot of people.

**Aaron:** With the piece of work being different for each committee, and in either the ad hoc or the subcommittee route, the Elections Committee would be considered temporary. How can we be guaranteed that there will be sufficient focus on policy changes after the election season, especially when these could take more time than anticipated or if these are larger changes? I worry that- typically it would take a complete Elections Committee to get these changes made. And as of last year, it took almost till the start of this year's election to become finalized, I just want to make sure that no matter what route we take, that we see elections still being focused on in terms of policy.

**Andrew:** That's another great comment. I think, something that I can offer to potentially address that as an issue could be the fact that in terms of both of these routes that we're investigating, there is the opportunity to incentivize the group that is working on the elections to do a good job. For instance, in terms of the committee, subcommittee, all year round kind of merged option one, sorry I should have had my screen still sharing. But in terms of that, committee chair, subcommittee chair relationship, the way we see this working is the subcommittee chair would still receive an honorarium, they would still bring these topics to the table, and they would still have responsibility in terms of doing a good job. The other thing that I'd like to address is that this actually goes back to a very early comment. And I know we're not talking about the ad hoc committee anymore, in terms of Nicolas bringing up that we can just form a subcommittee in the overall committee, an idea that was brought to that table as well for what we would consider option two here, is that this subcommittee would receive some fraction of the honorarium that would be allotted to a chair usually, and to get this job done. So there would be incentive for people to do this and to do a good job. I hope that addresses the concern.

**Speaker:** We have 47 seconds left, can anybody please extend time?

**Motion to extend discussion time by 7 minutes.**

**MOVER:** Nicolas Romualdi                      **SECONDER:** Perrin Waldock                      **RESULT:** Carried, none opposed

**Nevena:** I just wanted to bring some information from some of the participation I've been doing through the AMS about things related to this. They've been doing an equity sort of consultation assessment with the consultant and part of something that's come out through that work is students wanting their student societies to engage with them, not only during election season, but throughout the year. So it doesn't, you know, feel kind of like, "Oh, you only want our attention when you need us to vote for you". And so playing off of what has been said about the strengths that each of these committees bring to the table, I can see how this could potentially be an avenue to even think about how we can sort of increase that engagement with students that's you know, priming for election season, getting to know their AMS executives, and whatnot, kind of throughout the year. And so that's really what I wanted to bring. That and like, you know, my armchair expertise of becoming a little too obsessed with the US election about this idea of how do we increase engagement with our student body throughout the year. And so to me, it sounds like this collaboration, whatever it looks like - I don't have strong ideas - could be a potential way to kind of help us reach that goal. That's all I want to add.

**Andrew:** I appreciate you bringing that up, thank you.

**Nicolas:** One thing we didn't cover today in councillor training, so apologies to the new councillors, but I'm going to move to refer the current concern to the Governance and Accountability Committee. I will motivate if I get seconded.

**Speaker:** If this is seconded and if this motion is passed, G&A is mandated, they must consider this topic. If you don't this motion is just optional.

**Andrew:** Point of information, are we trying to make a decision? Because we're really just looking for consultation opinions here. Are we saying we're going to direct this to be investigated, this topic, for opinions to be directed to G&A?



**Speaker:** That is the motion at hand. That's why I'm explaining this particularly so people understand. And if that's not what people wish to do, then that shouldn't be- well this has already been seconded by Maria. So this now has to be talked about. So I'm going to explain again that right now, if this motion is not passed, if it never happened, it's just business as usual. Like Andrew said, we'll be continuing to discuss but there's no obligation to do anything about it. If the Council directed this matter to be considered at G&A, G&A must deal with this issue.

**Motion to refer matter to G&A Committee.**

**Nicolas:** There's been comments back and forth from councillors trying to fully understand what Services and Elections are proposing, and this motion is not intended to be an endorsement in favor or an opinion against what is being put forward, or any of the particular options that are being put forward. But rather there seems to be a general wish from council to understand what is the scope and intent of this motion? And there seem to be a lot of questions, there seems to be an appetite to discuss, that seems clear to me, but that discussion is a much more fleshed out discussion than we can do in Council right now. So what I would like to do, is for G&A to pick up the issue, and for any councillors who would like to have an opinion on this, both Services members, Elections members, CPC, to get in touch with G&A so we can have an offline from council consultation and bring it back when it's more ripe. Because right now it seems like there's a lot of different opinions, and a lot of willingness to engage with the issue, but it's nowhere near mature enough for Council. That's my opinion, which is why I moved this referral.

**Mostafa:** Both Services and Elections have this matter as their SMART goal, so I think regardless G&A will be hearing a lot about it. Just providing information. Not really against, whichever way you vote, I guess I don't understand the motion.

**Speaker:** If you vote for, G&A must deal with this matter, doesn't matter they want to or not, they have to, because Council directed them to do so using this particular motion that you're about to vote on. If you vote it down, then G&A is not obligated, and like Mostafa said there's some SMART goals. So it's a different level of commitment that you are asking of the committee's councillors.

**Andrew:** Is it possible for me to move for a preliminary vote before this motion to have G&A investigate further, just to get a general feeling. Because again, we're not taking a specific direction here. We're just looking for whether or not Council thinks this is something that we should move forward with. And of course, a lot of the feedback has been to my ears in that direction. But also whether or not there are some initial ideas about which of these kinds of logistical ideas might work a little bit better, it's going to be a lot of discussion moving forward, regardless. So I'm wondering if it's possible for me to move for like a friendly vote before that motion to bring it to G&A.

**Speaker:** I cannot allow that poll when the motion at hand is required voting. But what I suggest you do and from what I'm understanding, your argument is Andrew and Mostafa, from what I'm hearing, you are speaking against this motion with your rationale. So that's why I will recommend you to vote this motion down because you think that it's not time to do what the motion is trying to do. That's why you're supposed to speak on this motion. That's my recommendation. But if I understand you otherwise, please explain yourself.

**Andrew:** I think I'm not so much speaking against this motion, because I do believe that this idea needs to be further investigated and more formulated before it comes back in a more official capacity. So I wouldn't say that I'm necessarily speaking against it, either. But I guess if a preliminary vote were to be on the table, I would need to speak against this, is that what you're saying, Madam Speaker?

**Speaker:** I cannot allow a vote within a motion that's not on topic. So now we're not talking about should we refer this to G&A and this will be a G&A matter. It will no longer be in your hands. So it's your decision to speak on this particular motion either way, and then even if you voted for or against or speak for or against at this moment doesn't mean that you are in a different timing, time of the day, next meeting, you think that's time to refer to G&A, that's a different matter.



**Nicolas:** I'd like to clarify for the whole assembly, in particular for the chair of the Services and the Elections Committee, the motion on the floor acknowledges the fact that the issue needs to be looked further into, it seems to me that the result, my reading of the room is that the result of a straw poll and whether we want to explore the issue or not, would be a yes. What exactly we want to do and what exactly the result of the proposed amendment, we would like to put forward- that doesn't seem to be clear whatsoever. So the rationale behind referring this to the Governance and Accountability Committee is for that consultation process to be further engaged and come back to Council. One, there's a bit of a clear idea what Council wants to- Council clearly wants to look into this. There's just no clarity into what exactly Council wants to do. And the Council meeting is, in my opinion, not the correct space to be fleshing that out. Because that's probably an hours upon hours discussion that we shouldn't be having right now. But the discussion right now is, do we want to look into this or not? It seems to me that the answer is yes. And it also seems to me that the Governance and Accountability Committee is the body in the society that is best positioned to carry out this consultation process.

**Sarah:** Can I amend the motion, BIRT that the above be referred to G&A Committee and they report back to Council in May with recommendations.

**Motion to amend to:**

BIRT the matter be referred to G&A **and come back to Council in May with recommendations.**

**Speaker:** Seconded by Nicolas. Now you can motivate or people can speak on this amendment.

**Sarah:** For one, Nicolas has touched on a lot of the topics about how it would be more appropriate for it to be discussed in a committee setting, and also G&A has looked into this situation in the past, so it seems to be the most appropriate committee and we've been talking about this within Services for a couple months now, so it might be nice to have external pair of eyes to provide recommendations.

**Jin:** I support this motion as a whole, however I would say I think May is a bit ambitious. While we have talked about this in the past, we haven't talked about this in recent months. I think to say by May Council might not be feasible. I would recommend later in the summer, June July. I propose it gets moved to July.

**Motion to amend the amendment to:**

BIRT the matter be referred to G&A and come back to Council in **July** with recommendations.

**Speaker:** Seconded by Nicolas. Now we're talking about May or July.

**Nicolas:** Given that the G&A chair has spoken about the deadline, I call to question on this amendment.

**Speaker:** No more speakers, I don't have to go into a vote. I cannot feel the room so let's go for a vote. We're voting to replace May or July. That's the only thing we're voting right now. And then we're not committing to anything until we go back to the very origin of the whole motion. We're not there yet. If you vote yes, then we will have July on the motion; if you vote no, we'll have May.

[Reposted] **Motion to amend the amendment to:**

BIRT the matter be referred to G&A and come back to Council in **July** with recommendations.

**MOVER:** Jin Wen

**SECONDER:** Nicolas Romualdi

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (22):** Anurag Krishna, Adenike Adelakun, Leila Matte-Kaci, Sofie McComb, Axel Hauduc, Nevena Rebic, Perrin Waldock, Kamel, Mohamed, Taryn Scarff, Jenny Lee, Shiva Zargar, Jin Wen, Hannah Green, Kira Vandermeulen, Yundi Wang, Sarah Park,





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**Relevant materials:** [Final Executive Goal Review 2020-21.pptx](#)

**Motion to extend presentation time by 5 minutes.**

**MOVER:** Tayo Olarewaju

**SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen

**RESULT:** Carried, none opposed

## 5.5 VP STUDENTS YEARLY RECAP

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**Responsible:** Sarah Park (VP Students)

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Description:** VP Students Yearly Recap

**Objective:** To update council on the ongoings and recap the 2020-2021 year in the VP Students portfolio

**Relevant materials:** [VP Students Yearly Recap 20-21.pdf](#)

## 5.6 VP UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FINAL REMARKS

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**Responsible:** Nicolas Romualdi (VP University and Academic Affairs)

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Description:** Final remarks summarizing observations and recommendations moving forward

**Relevant materials:** [Partying Thoughts.pptx](#)

**Motion to extend presentation time by 2 minutes.**

**MOVER:** Nicolas Romualdi

**SECONDER:** Andrew Zang

**RESULT:** Carried, none opposed

## 5.7 VP EXTERNAL YEAR-IN-REVIEW

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**Responsible:** Alireza Kamyabi (VP External)

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Description:** VP External Office year-in-review and remarks on a future path forward

**Relevant materials:** [GSS VPX Year in Review 2020.21 - Year in Review.pptx](#)

## 5.8 COUNCIL AWARDS 2021

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**Responsible:** Kimani Karangu (President)

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Description:** Presentation of Council Awards 2021 for Best Councillor, Best Ordinary Member, Best Committee, Best Committee Chair

**Relevant materials:** [Council Awards 2021 Presentation.pptx](#)

**Winners of GSS Council Awards 2021:**

Best Ordinary Member: Sofie McComb (AcEx Committee)

Best Committee Chair: Mostafa Hagar (Elections Committee)

Best Committee: AMS Caucus (Chair: Jackson Schumacher)

Best Councillor: Gillian Glass (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies)

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## 6 MATTERS TO NOTE

*Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.*



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## 6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

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- Wellbeing Week! [DIY Candlemaking](#) (Apr 19), [Bullet Journals](#) (Apr 20), [Paint Night](#) (Apr 23)
- [Virtual Games Round 3](#) (Apr 21)

## 6.2 EXECUTIVES

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### 6.2.1 President

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- Coaching Proposal Feedback meeting, Team Coaching Session #1, Team Coaching Session #2
- U15 Graduate Student Societies - 3rd General Meeting - MOU Discussion
- Health and Dental Emergency Meetings
- EDI audit meetings
- UBCV VPA and Provost Reappointment Committee: Student leaders slot
- Together Nicolas VPUAA met the BoG chair Nancy McKenzie.
- UBC and Universities Canada have been strongly advocating with the Federal government to provide VISA expediting, VISA concessions (less than full course load) and campus-provided quarantine for new and returning international students.

### 6.2.2 FEOO

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- Effected and/or reviewed GSS March Financial transactions.
- In collaboration with staff and EOC working on executives' transition schedule.
- Chaired meetings of EOC that reviewed 2020-21 executive's goal.
- The House and Finance Committee reallocated \$8000 from budget lines that have not been expended by the 2020/21 VP External. The reallocated sum is to be used to produce a video project on Graduate Education for the Public Good.

### 6.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

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- **International Students:** Processing times for student Visas can be problematic for students who are arriving to Canada for the first time. Effort is likely necessary to monitor the development of an appropriate response from the University, in particular for students who are in course-based programs and may not qualify for full time registered status with limited remote offerings. Interruptions in full time status can result in problems when applying for post-graduation work permits.
- **Budget and Tuition Consultation:** The budget and tuition process has not yet finalized at the time of submitting these updates. The update presented is the best available information at this time.  
The GSS participated proactively in budget consultation, starting with submissions to the Provost and VP Finance office, to the close cycle of the board, and finally to the open board session.  
The quarantine housing bursary funding is planned to be expanded to 1 M\$.  
There is significant expectation that funding will become available to offer compensation to research graduate students, both masters and PhD, as a result of the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Executive Transition:** The incoming VP UAA has started transitioning into the role and familiarizing herself with the major stakeholders and important tables. Templates for COVID and non-COVID budgets have been provided. Introductions to graduate council and VPS staff will soon follow.

### 6.2.4 VP External

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- **\$3.75 million investment in BC Graduate Scholarships and program extension:** On March 30, the government announced funding of \$3.75 million to extend the BC Graduate Scholarship Program and support over 250 graduate student researchers across the province over the next two year. Increasing government support and funding for



graduate education has been a priority advocacy item for the UBC-GSS. The Society has been a strong advocate for extension of the BC Graduate Scholarship since its inception in 2018 and the Ministry emphasized the important role that student advocacy played in securing this investment.

- Read UBC-GSS press release [here](#).
- Read GSSBC Press Release [here](#).
- **MOU and Creation of Canada Graduate Student Alliance:** The UBC-GSS continues to lead the work on creating a Canada-wide alliance of graduate students for coordinated and unified advocacy to federal government. The 3rd General Meeting of the U15 GSS's took place on March 29. A draft MOU was discussed to create the first and only graduate-specific advocacy alliance. A Special General Meeting will be held on April 23rd to finalize the MOU. Then the MOU will be brought to Council at each U15 GSS (including UBC) for approval.
- **Graduate Education & Public Good Report:** The GSS VPX Office GSS is working on a public-facing advocacy project to communicate the value of graduate education in society and the myriad ways graduate students and the research/projects they support contribute to socioeconomic development of our communities, especially the contributes made by the graduate students in the social sciences and humanities. The project is centered around a foundational report titled the "Graduate Education and The Public Good Report". To communicate to report to a wider audience, the GSS has commissioned graduate students in the UBC Film and Theatre Department to create a documentary style video that outlines the myriad ways graduate education contributes to socioeconomic development. The video includes interview with graduate students of various disciplines (law, film, neuroscience, business, fine arts, political science, etc.) explaining their work and their research/projects. The project is experiencing delays due to latest round of pandemic-related filming restrictions. The project is slated to be launched May/June 2021
- **AMS-GSS External Advocacy MOU:** The AMS and GSS are currently drafting an MOU that would provide a framework for coordinated graduate student advocacy and set expectations for productive collaboration between the AMS/GSS VPX Offices going forward. The MOU will be discussed in AcEx and brought to Council in May/June for approval.
- **Advocacy on using university residence's as equitable alternative to 3-day mandatory hotel stay:** UBC-GSS partnering with 7 other graduate student societies, sent a letter to federal government calling for the use of residence isolations plans as an affordable alternative to 3-day mandatory hotel stay. Led by UBC-GSS, we have since been in contact with MPs. U15 GSS are preparing a briefing to be sent to opposition critics to take up issue and parliament.
  - Read Graduate Student's [letter](#) to federal government on 3-day mandatory hotel stay here.
  - Watch [GlobalTV interview with Alireza](#)
- **GSS Privacy Policy:** The VPX Office has successfully completed the GSS Privacy Policy Project deliverable set out in October. Deliverables include: PIPA-aligned GSS Privacy Policy, GSS Protection of Personal Information Guideline, defining a GSS Privacy Officer and privacy policy training for all GSS executives, staff and chairs. Further details to be provided in presentation to Council.
- **GSS Council Restructuring:** Working with G&A to finalize list of academic units and the recalculation of departmental representatives based on the sizes of the academic units. Once the list is finalized, VP Students will begin reaching out to academic units with missing representatives to ensure we have adequate and democratic representation in GSS council in accordance with the GSS bylaws.

## 6.2.5 VP Students

- GSS Haiku contest winners – Had 30+ submissions from various departments, posted on Twitter and Newsletter, gave out GCs
- Working with representatives from graduate students from BIOF, IOP, GSAT to create a graduate student group
- Hosted UBC Science Communication Week 2021 in collaboration with UBC Faculty of Medicine Graduate & Postdoctoral Education Office funding with Daniel He
- Wrapped up Mountain Subsidy Program to allow students to partake in outdoor activities of their choosing to get reimbursements back
- Sitting on the Graduate Speaker Selection Committee for virtual spring graduation 2021



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- Working with Bakau Consulting for the EDI audit – waiting for analysis by end of the month
  - Working with Services Committee on merging Elections Committee based on their final decision
  - In conversation with UBC REC to host potential summer programming, depending on interest of incoming VP Students
  - Upcoming events: DIY Candlemaking, Get into Bullet Journaling, Jackbox Games Round 2, Paint Night, and Canada-wide Trivia! Come through 😊

## 6.3 COMMITTEES

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### 6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

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- On March 17th, AcEx met to continue its discussion of the possibilities for UBC graduate student federal advocacy within the context of the UCRU lobby group (Undergraduates of Canadian Research Intensive Universities). AcEx also discussed and explored the potential for changes to the GSS's approach in receiving and responding to program tuition consultations from the University. AcEx will meet on April 14th and receive a presentation from graduate students involved in the UBC Kindness Project.

### 6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

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- CPC has been working with G&A regarding policies around conflict resolution as well as departmental representative calculations
- CPC has started to work on SMART goals, including scheduling regular meeting items regarding revising the entirety of the Policy Manual
- CPC has had one Councillor unseated due to being elected as VP UAA

### 6.3.3 Elections Committee

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- Reviewed SMART goals, prepared election report, discussed merging with Services committee, and reviewed recommendations for next year's elections.

### 6.3.4 Executive Committee

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- Transition window period till May 15<sup>th</sup> 2021

### 6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

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- EOC reviewed 2020-21 Executive Reports and is considering proposing changes to executives' work hours.

### 6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

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- G&A completed our committee SMART Goals and planning to send to executives for review.
- G&A started tracking KPIs and in the process of establishing assessment criteria.
- G&A has resumed its work on the Indigenous Engagement ad hoc Committee

### 6.3.7 House Finance Committee

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- Uber vouchers for GSS meeting approved - \$8/person/meeting for Committee & \$10/person/meeting for Council. April is the pilot month to iron out the process. Increasing amount for Committee meetings to \$10/person/meeting (from \$8) to be evaluated during the new budget discussion.
- VP External's budget reallocation of \$8000 approved for creation of video to supplement the "Graduate Students for Public Good" report.



- Discussion ongoing with FEOO to invest GSS account balance in mutual funds. Amount and duration to be decided. Low-carbon mutual funds options to be evaluated. The goal is to be at par with inflation rates.

#### 6.3.8 Human Resources

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- (none submitted)

#### 6.3.9 Services Committee

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- Working on smart goals

#### 6.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

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- SPAHC has moved into the next phase of its development of the strategic plan - writing out specific Goals, Priorities, and Proposed Strategies using all the resources we've created over the past year - student satisfactions surveys, themes surveys, previous planning documents & interviews with our stakeholders.
- We are on track for our next steps of having a draft ready for council in the July meeting.

#### 6.3.11 AMS Caucus

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- (none submitted)

#### 6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

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- Grad Council has not met since the last Council meeting as the most recent Grad Council is the same day as this GSS Council

## 6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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#### 6.4.1 Senators:

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- (none submitted)

#### 6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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- (none submitted)

## 7 NOTICES

### 7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

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**Date:** Thursday, May 20th at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Online Via Teams

### 7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

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- Alison McClean was unseated as Departmental Representative from the School of Population and Public Health.
- Alison McClean was unseated as Councillor from Code and Policy Committee.
- Mohammad Ali Shahsavari was unseated as Ordinary Member from Governance and Accountability Committee.
- Mostafa Hagar was unseated as Departmental Representative from Chemistry.



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- Mostafa Hagar was unseated as Chair from Elections Committee.
  - Mostafa Hagar was unseated as Councillor from Elections Committee.
  - Mostafa Hagar was unseated as Councillor from Services Committee.
  - Avery Newman-Simmons was unseated as Ordinary Member from Governance and Accountability Committee.
  - Delarem Shojaei was unseated as Departmental Representative from Interdisciplinary Oncology.
  - Zhenyang Xu was unseated as Departmental Representative from Educational Studies.
  - Jennifer Lipka was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
  - Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi was unseated as Councillor from Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee.
  - Christina Weismann was unseated as Ordinary Member from House Finance Committee.

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **9:31 pm**.

**MOVER:** Andrew Zang

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried, none opposed