

# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm.

**Present:** Analise Hofmann, Areezo Alemzadeh, Arjun Baghela, Atef Samani, Bradly Balaton, Carla Hilario, Chen V, Christina Wiesmann, Claire Gregoire, Conny Lim, Dante Mendoza, David Gill, Emily Murphy, Hannah Murray, Heather McKay, Francisco Gallegos, John Dupuis, Katerina Othonos, Kevin Doering, Krish Maharaj, Lily Ren, Lisa Zhu, Mackenzie Lockhart, Namrata Jain, Natalie Marshall (Proxy for James Lawson), Nathaniel Lim, Nicolas Romualdi (Proxy for Souvik), Pablo Silva, Paul Buelli, Peter Musser, Rachele Benjamin, Sarah Nell, Sebastian Rettie, Shona Robinson, Teilhard Paradela, Zeynab Nosrati.

**Regrets:**

**Absent:**

**A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda**

1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:56 pm.

Quorum- 27

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER:** Conny L.

**SECONDER:** Bradly B.

Amendment to add a presentation from Dante Mendoza on Finance Update.

**MOVER:** Conny L

**SECONDER:** John D.

**Adopted Unanimously.**

**B. Introductions**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. BIRT the following GSS Council meeting minutes be approved as presented.

- December Council Meeting 2016, ~~January Council Meeting 2017~~, February Council Meeting 2017, March Council Meeting 2017, ~~April Council Meeting 2017~~.

Discussion:

Natalie M: No one received the January minutes so if we could remove that line to be approved and wait until council has received them to approve them.

David G: April was not an official meeting so are we to be approving them or not?

Amendment to remove both the January & April 2017 Council Meeting minutes.

**Adopted Unanimously**

- b. BIRT the following GSS Committee meeting minutes be approved as presented

**House Finance Committee Meeting:** February 23, 2017; March 9, 2017; March 30, 2017; April 27, 2017; May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017; May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee Meeting: May 24, 2017

**MOVER:** Mackenzie L.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L. for Keskin O.

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Discussion:

Mackenzie L: Just throwing this out there I see no minutes presented for an abundance of committee meetings that should be sending minutes. It would be nice to see the minutes from those other committee's as someone who doesn't know what their up to it would be nice to see what everyone is doing, the progress of each committee, etc. Encouraging the submittal of committee minutes! Would be great.

Conny L: Moving forward to vote on passing the minutes that are presented.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

### 3. 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 May 2018:

**Graduate Program in Neuroscience**  
**Vancouver Prostate Center Graduate Student Association**  
**Pathology Student Association**

**MOVER:** Sarah J.

**SECONDER:** Alyssa K.

**Motion unanimously passes.**

4- BIRT the following Unseatings ~~be approved:~~

### C. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

**Conny L:** Notice of unseating's, this list has been unseated from various council and committee member. We do need a motion to approve them.

**Shona R:** Amend to remove this motion, change to 'BIRT the notice of unseating's' and remove "be approved"

**MOVER:** Shona R.

**SECONDER:** Katerina O.

**Motion unanimously passes.**

**Amanda Pizio** to be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Cell and Developmental Biology.

**Amanda Pizio** to be unseated as councillor from the Cody and Policy Committee.

**David Gill** to be unseated as the Departmental Representative for the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies.

**David Gill** to be unseated as councillor from the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

**David Gill** to be unseated as councillor from the Services Committee.

**David Gill** to be unseated as councillor from the Human Resources Committee.

**David Gill** to be unseated as councillor from the Elections Committee.

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Karen Simmons to be unseated as Departmental Representative for the department of Pathology and Lab Medicine.

Karen Simmons to be unseated as councillor from the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

Abhishek Kar to be unseated as councillor from the House Finance committee.

Krish Maharaj to be unseated as Chair and councillor of the Code and Policy Committee.

Gillian Fuss to be unseated as Departmental Representative for the Faculty of Forestry.

Yaseen Mottiar to be unseated as Departmental Representative for the Faculty of Forestry.

Oguzhan Tuysuz to be unseated as Departmental Representative for the Department of Mechanical Engineering

5. BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

Atefeh: Please have my name changed to Atefeh\*

~~Atefeh~~ Atefeh Mohammad Vali Samani to be seated as the Department Representative for the Cell and Developmental Biology, Faculty of Medicine.

Claire Gregoire to be seated as the Departmental Representative for ~~Medical-Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science. Department of Medicine.~~ Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science.

Emma Watson to be seated as the Departmental Representative for the School of Community and Regional Planning.

Lisa Zhu to be seated as the Departmental Representative for the iSchool Program at SLAIS.

Nathaniel Lim to be seated as Departmental Representative for Genome Science and Technology.

Peter Musser to be seated as the Departmental Representative for the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies.

Emily Murphy to be seated as the Departmental Representative for the Faculty of Forestry.

Heather MacKay to be seated as the Departmental Representative for the Faculty of Forestry.

**MOVER:** James L.

**SECONDER:** Sarah J.

Claire G: Could we change to Department to Mechanical Engineering and my name to be changed please.

**Motion unanimously passes.**

6. BIRT the following Seatings are approved:

MOVER: Bradly B

SECONDER: James L.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee (1 Ordinary Member)

Dante: We have made progress in the Templates we are using to develop goals for executives. We will resume meetings as we are almost ready to review those goals for the new executives. If there is an ordinary member not part of committee who is looking to join please feel free!

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the House Finance Committee (1 Ordinary Member)

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Friendly Amendment:

Nicholas L: We need two councillors and 1 ordinary member, we have a chair.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated ~~as chair~~ of the House Finance Committee (2 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)

Shona R: We take care of the GSC (Graduate Student Council) and Thea Koerner House as well as the budget. It's important we make the budget and have seats on the committee filled. I want to nominate two people, Nathaniel, and Lisa.

Nominations: Nathaniel & Lisa.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Human Resources Committee. (4 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Members)

Namrata: Not too much of a commitment, we meet once every two weeks, take interviews, make important decisions, hire/ fire people, it is fun! We need 4 more councillors so we have 5 positions in total.

David G: I am interested in being an ordinary member if that is okay.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Committee (1 Councillor, 2 Ordinary Members)

Katerina O: Hello everyone, I am the chair of Harassment & Discrimination. We meet once a month, bit of a longer meeting every time. We are sitting 4 hours right now because we have a lot of data, tons to learn on how to combat issues on H&D within the community at UBC. We also want to start doing socials after every meeting to make it fun!

David G: I would like to nominate myself as an ordinary member.

Peter M: I would like to nominate myself as a council member.

Arjun B: I would also like nominate myself.

Katerina O: I would also like to nominate an ordinary member on behalf of Chen Vu.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Academic and External Affairs Committee (2 Councillors)

Tei: Dan Khelia is the chair however he is not here, I however am a standing member as is Hannah. If you are interested in advocacy issues, please join the AXEC committee- we will be coming up with recommendations regarding tuition fee increase, participation in both federal provincial politics. It is very fun! We have attended a few meetings thus far, the energy is electric!

Emily M/ Heather M: We would both like to nominate ourselves as councillors.

Tei P: It says we only need two councillors, but we need a few more, room for 4 more members, thank you.

Atefeh S: I would like to nominate myself.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee (2 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)

Natalie M: The Governance and Accountability Committee is responsible for restructuring the GSS. We work at ways to reaching Quorum in council, and new implementations regarding the Strategic Plan. We meet once every two weeks for about an hour and a half hours in the evening at 6:00pm.

Peter M: I would like to withdraw my application to the Harassment & Discrimination committee and join the Governance and Accountability committee.

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Nathaniel L: I would like to nominate myself as a councillor.

Nicholas R: I would also like to nominate myself as an ordinary member

Natalie M: I would like to nominate Amanda Pisio as a councillor as she expressed her interest in joining.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Elections Committee (2 Councillors, 3 Ordinary Members)

David G: I don't think we have an elections committee at this time.

Natalie M: In the past, we only had an elections committee in the upcoming months prior the GSS Election however the intent this year is to have it as a standing committee. Important because the elections committee has been tasked to prepare for our next referendum and it is important we keep it going all year round.

Katerina O: Does this committee have a chair?

David G: Anna was previously the elections officer.

Dante: Yes, there isn't really a committee itself.

Katerina O: Can I nominate myself as a councillor for that committee.

David G: Can I nominate myself as an ordinary member. Can I also nominate Sebastian as a councillor for that committee?

Sebastian: I accept.

Conny L: No further nominations.

\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Code and Policy Committee (2 Councillors, 1 Chair)

Krish M: As outgoing chair, Code is a good show. If you enjoy the idea of trying to draft the language of other people's decision making and how a society is supposed to run. The meetings are usually a week before and after council. Not too much going on at the moment and no active business on the agenda. I don't think anyone is stepping up as Chair but I will be around for the next 5 months at least for any information or support people need. It's worth while!

Nathaniel L: I will like to withdraw from Governance and Accountability and nominate myself for councillor in Cody & Policy.

Point of Inquiry:

David G: Is Anna still the chair of elections committee or do we need to appoint another for that?

Dante M: Confirmed with Anna that her role as elections officer has been terminated. No committee has been formed at this time.

Overview of Seats:

Conny L: David and Nathaniel it appears you both will be fighting over one ordinary member seat for Governance and Accountability. Let's approve what we have before, to seat all new members and then we will have a vote on who gets the seat on Governance and Accountability. We will let them give a small speech on why we should choose each but first we will approve all seats on the other committees. David and Nicholas you will now have the floor to speak, David, please proceed:

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David G: Hello, my name is David Gill and I was a previous councillor for the school of library archivals and information studies (SLAIS). I was on a lot of committees previously, one of them including the Strategic Plan Committee Ad Hoc which was responsible in creating the Strategic Plan and I was primarily responsible for discussing Accountability Issues. I learned that G & A is the committee responsible for making sure we are accountable for that strategic plan and I think it will work well with the committee.

Nicholas R: Thank you for the opportunity to speak, I am currently in mechanical engineering PHD student. This is my first involvement with GSS, I was invited to attend to Proxy for a member in order to make Quorum and this meeting could move forward. As far as oversight experience- I do not have experience for GSS, but I am involved in many groups and community involvement projects within / outside of UBC. I am a manager of a small organization and I hope you can give me this opportunity to provide my expertise and what I must improve the GSS.

Conny L: Any questions or are we ready to vote?

Shona R: David, what other committees are you on right now?

David G: I have applied to be on Human Resources, Elections, and Harassment & Discrimination.

Conny L: If you are voting for David, please click A if you are voting for Nicholas please click B. Nicholas you have won, you are now a councillor on the Governance and Accountability committee. Now moving on with the motion to approve all of the seats. Congratulations guys!

**Motion Passes Unanimously.**

## **D. Presentations and Motions** (Presentations are set at 10 minutes each unless stated otherwise)

### **1. How can we consistently obtain quorum for GSS Council meetings? Update from Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee.**

Presenters: Natalie Marshall, Katerina Othonos

Description: The Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee will summarize recommendations to obtain quorum at Council meetings earlier and more consistently, and will provide a brief update on what has already begun. Feedback encouraged!

Time: 10 minutes.

Katerina O: Summarizing recommendations on how to make Quorum during council, have more consistent meetings earlier, a brief update on what we have discussed already, and provide an opportunity for you guys to give us feedback.

Natalie M: Why is it important for us to make Quorum? It is needed to make decisions, seat committee members, pass Affiliate Organizations etc. Historically, the GSS council have had some trouble getting Quorum and having it met on time. We have not been successful in making quorum for the past two months so congratulations to all of us to making it tonight!

Katerina O: Whose Responsibility, is it? Essentially all of us. Both the executives of the GSS and G & A committee. We have the ability to optimize efficiency which was part of the GSS Strategic Plan as well as all of us. We all need to contribute in order for this council to be successful.

How do we move forward?

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Long Term Goals:

G&A- Will lead these discussion on what our long-term goals our – code & policy heads up.

Short Term- Thank you to all of you who contributed to our brain storm session after last months committee. The G & A – took these ideas and are working on implementations. Make decisions to better this process immediately- making council

Katerina O: What have we done so far? Councillor accountability- make it a fun place! incentivising

Natalie M: Recommendations from council and G&A Meeting:

RSVP- Proxy's- Collecting name and contact info of Proxy as soon as people respond that they will be sending one in lieu of their absence. Collect all RSVP'S and follow up with each to ensure quorum is always met. If councillors miss one meeting without sending a proxy we will follow up and check in as to the reason why if they miss two, that councillor will receive a warning.

Tracking/ Incentivizing Attendance- We need to have a regular attendance tracking so we can record who is coming and who is not. We want to make council more fun so will start serving dinner at 5:00pm in the Michael Kingsmill Forum room to get everybody in the room and seated. Next to this we will play music and have some sort of trivia or game to keep councillors engaged. Also, to ensure every councillor stays throughout the whole meeting, we want to make a tradition of going to the Gallery after each council meeting and enjoy a pint and some food on the council (under budget).

Important to send the agenda out early to each councillor and ensure it is not empty, all supported documentation is included and clear and not empty so people have a heads up on what to expect in council.

Katerina O: How to make Proxying Easy: Get consent from councillors to provide proxies if they cannot find them. Have affidavits ready and signed so we can sign up ordinary members.

Proxy Pool- both grad council and AMS reps who do not count for quorum so they can proxy for people who can't attend. One proxy per councillors. Include external reps as well. Make use of time before quorum so we can use our council time effectively. Brush up on Roberts Rules of Order using the trivia format. Review available committee positions and meeting info prior quorum so we do not waste time. Make meetings more efficient- entail updates as committee chairs and executives before hand so that portion of the meeting runs fast and smooth.

Natalie M: GSS Update:

Natalie M: RSVP- Doodle Poll is gone, we now have a Calendar Invitation vs. Doodle Poll (looking into alternatives) or Google Forms so we can incorporate a prompt- so if you click "no" you can input your proxy name. Making use of time before Quorum- Roberts Rules of Order Trivia. Advertising sign up sheets for proxy pools, setting up a proxy affidavit. Therefore, each councillor will have a back up proxy already setup. We also have started given out warnings to councillors who have missed several meetings.

Katerina O: What Now?

Katerina O: Provide proxies, sign affidavits, and fill out agenda early on. This is important because a lot of the time people are seeing the agenda and there are no topics included when I know there are tons of issues to be discussed, moved, voted on etc. We need to be sure to send in all updates and written proposals to council prior so that these are included and councillors are made aware of things that need to be talked about. If you are interested in this kind of stuff please join the G & A committee.

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Natalie M: In order to help make this work we are hoping by next council we will have written reports and updates. This is a heads up you will be contacted if you are interested! Sign up sheets to be a proxy are at the back of this room. Taran and Dante have generously give us a 50\$ tab at the Gallery. So, if we get quorum and finish all business in council around 8:30pm we are able to go across to the Gallery- and the GSS will sponsor 50\$ worth of drinks. More incentive to not only come but to finish efficiency!

Atefeh S: I was at the briefing, and we played around with being more aggressive to get people to show up. Are we following through with the unseating after several seating's have been missing?

Natalie M: If you miss 3 without a proxy you will most likely be kicked off of council. Regarding Cody & Policy, hopefully we can look at changing those Bylaws as we want to take more drastic action if one person misses one or two without providing proxy.

David G: An issue I had was that I sent a proxy and I had class but I was told my proxy left so I had to come back. Sometimes proxies can be unreliable so maybe next time we can be sterner with the proxy in making sure they stay for the whole compression.

Natalie M: Yes, we need to address the issue of significance to the proxy. Proxies are not just bumps being placed into seats. They are important to the council and provide a lot of input. We should maybe have to provide a walk through of the Agenda to them and it is up to you to ensure that your proxy is made aware of his/her responsibility. Ensure resources are provided etc.

David G: Hearing what AMS does, even if you have a proxy, even if you miss a councillor- if it's 3 or 5 you still get kicked out even if you provide a proxy.

AMS Guest President: AMS Code- summer council meetings don't apply to that code- regularly, 5 council meetings missed proxy or no proxy- you are removed from council.

David G: We should consider that. Proxies can be very helpful especially with grad school, for example- research. You are elected by your school, you need to be here if you can't you need to send some. Let's try to do something that AMS does- increase the number but proxies count against you.

Nathaniel L: People need to be aware they have late night schools for an entire term- school of education.

Rachele B: Also occurred to be that the other system may desensitize people from making quorum.

Pablo S: What qualifies a first strike? Not coming at all? What is the second strike? How does one get unseated?

Nicholas R: Can we just come to the meeting and then be allowed to sit in for missing councillors? Training programs that ensure good thorough proxies are chosen for?

Natalie M: This is very possible. What we would like to do is have people who can't come from other departments replace them. We don't just want to start putting random people in seats we want people who are passionate about the GSS with an opinion. We want people who are external reps, grasspods, grad council etc., we don't count towards quorum but we are councillors. What we are trying to do is create a proxy pool, external reps to sign and make themselves available to proxy.

Peter M: We would not necessarily be loosening by making it 5 instead of 3- it would be 5 total vs. 3 in a row.

Paul B: We should probably move on.

Dante M: I agree, I decline my comment.

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Claire G: Can we be affiliated with someone else to make sure each students has a connection to another student who comes regularly. As we are affiliated with another- if one doesn't come the other person shows up.

Natalie M: I understand what you are saying sort of like a "bring a buddy" idea.

David G: How do we keep Quorum? When someone leaves what's the punishment? I am frustrated

Natalie M: Yep we are looking to not just obtaining Quorum but also, keeping it. We can discuss this in detail after council.

## 2. Financial Update- Dante Mendoza

**Dante M:** I have been discussing with the House Finance Committee regarding the budget but we felt we weren't ready to discuss the most important items just yet. The suggestion was to present the update and what direction we could take, as well as highlights.

Small background, many councillors were here when we presented back in October. Operating funds as a society and we came up with ways to increase our annual revenue. In the last couple of years, in 2017- the year that just finished we had a deficit of 70,000 dollars budget which prompted us to implement a small fee increase.

What has happened from October until now?

Resignation of our GM and staff turnover. At the end of the day we could have a balanced result but at this time we have as many expenses as revenue for this year.

Two main drivers- deficit to break even. General Manager leaving and other staff members leaving / being re hired. Turn over allowed us to allocate around 30,000

Right now in terms of the budget- we are targeting to have to break even. We were planning to have similar level of expenses. We want to maintain the level of funds to operate the society.

Changes in revenue streams however the same level of dollars. We got lucky as we were approached by a film crew at the beginning of the year to film a movie in the society. This earned us around \$12-15,000 in unplanned revenue. We are now looking to pursue more of this by promoting and allocating our space to generate income.

Second Stream- we have discussed this before, we underuse a majority of our spaces so we have some intention with the GSS to use office space for academic use. Potentially 50,000 for this year. Calculating only half of the year as we have nothing concrete or approved by council.

However, there has been some talk and there is potential we may lose out on annual revenue from the Graduation Ceremonies as they may conduct it somewhere else in the upcoming years. The risk to change the building is something we will have to face. We also may lose some small commercial bookings as well as Seedlings which are significant factors to consider for the future.

For this coming year, we will most likely break even in the balance and revenue we gain and lose however if we get a full year of rentals we would have additional revenues and we could afford additional expenses that our society needs.

We need to prioritize our budgets constraints at the next executive meeting.

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Must make a space, professional development, committee chairs and executives- we want to make sure there is money set aside for that because it is important. We want to fund some of these initiatives, for example a bar tab after our council meetings to encourage more councillors to come.

Our Logo- Need to brainstorm and research a new logo for our society.

Lounge Room- We need to make some investments to make it a better space so more people will want to rent it out.

Referendum- we have a duty to run a new referendum and expenses will come with this project

Staffing- open discussion, lost our GM but we have been discussing if we want to replace that position, this will be very important to discuss for our future budget.

A few risks for the upcoming year to consider:

The Pub- We want to work well with the Pub administration to make sure everything is in place, the maintenance is very expensive which affects our finances. We need to prevent any additional expenses that occur in the pub.

We are trying to collaborate more with AMS – if we have a closer collaboration with AMS and UBC it will strengthen our end goals and avoid expenses. Collaboration= less funds spent.

Questions;

John D: Last time you presented you discussed the annual revenue from Koerner's what was that number exactly?

Dante M: Right now, it is in a range of \$65,000 however there has been an increase in the last year.

Natalie M: Dante, could you tell us when in our Bylaws, the budget is supposed to come to council or when you are bringing it?

Dante M: It was supposed to be presented in the month of May however what we discussed this year as not having Quorum- discussed with House Finance we have a tight schedule for the budget to be approved. We were trying to get a motion from House Finance to get a motion passed in June with consent from council. However, we decided from recommendations via House Finance that it would be better to

## 2.AMS Referendum

WHEREAS graduate students are members of the AMS and pay annual fees for AMS services, and

WHEREAS it was voted in the 2015 GSS Annual General Meeting to hold a needs assessment on the AMS services that graduate students currently use, and

WHEREAS the assessment will require advanced planning, research, consultation with the GSS membership, and careful consideration of many factors, and

WHEREAS the GSS will need to draft and vote regarding how to proceed as a Society through a referendum in 2018, therefore

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BIRT GSS Council directs the Academic & External Affairs Committee, the Executive Committee, and the AMS Caucus to prepare a preliminary plan to prepare for the 2018 GSS/AMS Referendum, and

BIFRT this group present the preliminary plan to the GSS Council at the July Council meeting.

**MOVER** Bradly B.

**SECONDER** Nathaniel L.

## **Motivation:**

Natalie M: As many of us know, what 2018 holds in store for us at the GSS and AMS is a referendum of our membership as to whether the GSS members want to remain in continuance to the AMS. Currently graduate students like myself pay membership fees to both the GSS and AMS. Due to this we have access to AMS services, lobbying etc. We need to decide if we want to stay or not.

2018- BREXIT Proofing- Research exactly what Graduate Students are getting for their fees and what they would lose if they are no longer members of the AMS.

Essentially this motion is saying we need to get started- as we do not have an Adhoc committee to address this motion heads on.

The preliminary planning for this should fall onto the members of ACEX and AMS Caucus- (AMS Representatives who are Graduate Students as well as GSS reps).

Bradly B: Is there anyone here who was present in 2015, if so does anyone know why this referendum is happening?

Shona R: Certain execs said why can't we do what the AMS does. They felt the AMS at that time wasn't doing the best they could to cater to the graduate students- They mentioned that we were about 50% of their membership however were only receiving around 20% of their time.

Mackenzie L: Why would ACEX be a part of this? Perhaps services would have something to say because they deal with services part of the GSS.

Natalie M: Ultimately, somewhere along the line between now and the referendum, every GSS committee will need to be consulted with in regards to this issue. Right now we just want the preliminary plan. It was my suggestion to choose ACEX, because part of their Strat Plan was Responsibilities which they did start about a month ago was to develop a consultation process and we thought it would be useful for them to be involved in this.

David G: Also about AXEC, is to work with the University, if GSS is removed from AMS then the GSS is primarily involved with the university without having AMS there.

## **Amendment:**

**Mackenzie L:** Can we remove the ACEX committee to the motion.

**MOVER** Mackenzie L.

**SECONDER:** Pablo S.

**Discussion:** I am skeptical, it is too early in the game, I believe it would be more beneficial to have a smaller group of people with baseline knowledge vs people who don't have that much experience in looking into what we need to address.

Peter M: How many people are in the AMS Caucus.

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Bradly B: There are four of us but one is away for summer.

Natalie M: Mac I agree with you, but if it's a small group of us I may add ACEX just for numbers, I think it would be more beneficial to have more bodies available at least.

Jasleen G: Eventually, you will want to talk to other committees regarding their input. Having a plan for a another plan – internal plan falling on the external plan will. Therefore, having more bodies in the room will not be too beneficial I don't agree but starting with the AMS Caucus and then extending that pool of discussion n to other people would be best.

Call to Question

Conny L: Voting on the motion of striking out the ACEX out of this motion.

**MOVER:** Natalie

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

Krish M: Point of Order- do we have to vote for the call to question before the amendment? So, we are now voting on the amendment before the call to question?

Conny L: Yes. Right now, we are voting on the motion which states the Academic & External Affairs Committee, the Executive Committee, and the AMS Caucus to prepare a preliminary plan to prepare for the 2018 GSS/AMS Referendum.

**Motion passes unanimously.**

Conny L: Next vote, to strike AcEx Committee from the preliminary planning of the next referendum.

**Motion passes.**

## E. Discussion Period:

1. **Human Resources Committee recommendations for hiring a new General Manager for the GSS.**

**MOVER:** Namrata J

**SECONDER:** Bradly B.

Namrata J: On behalf of the HR Committee to discuss some crucial points relating to the hiring of the Gm. After extensive discussion, the HR committee has decided to take a stance on being in favour of hiring a GM.

Why the GSS needs a General Manager:

Provides the roll of an expert. Primary responsibilities include would include management of assets, financial staff decisions, for example, large financial purchases, inquisitional revenue streams such as the over sight on renting out spaces. The GM also takes charge in research and negotiations with all third parties that are involved with the GSS for example, contractors and companies.

Provides direct management and advising to administrative assistants, work learners, student workers, advising executives, and oversite staff members.

Implementation of Risk Management which is important because the GSS faces a lot of risk for example hosting events, liabilities, liquor licences etc.

Having a GM to authorize the above would be significantly beneficial to the growth of our society.

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The HR committee also feels they do not have the time or the skills needed to take on an abundance of these roles. Currently, Vivian, the office manager has taken on additional responsibilities that include management of all staff members and building responsibilities. However, Staff Performance Reviews have not been conducted and we as the HR committee are reliance on making sure that staff performance is being carried out in the GSS office.

Above all, for regular function of the Graduate Student Society, it is crucial a GM be hired.

Questions:

Bradly B: How much roughly does a GM cost? If we are barley breaking even without a GM would it be wise to spend an abundance of money towards gaining a new GM?

Dante M: Yes, the level of the last GM it would be a substantial amount of money around \$80-90,000 a year in addition.

Nathaniel L: If we do not have a General Manager, who is performing these roles in replace of him at the moment?

Namrata J: Some of the functions, the office manager has taken on, has been working overtime. Second of this, the HR staff has also had recent staff members who have quit so currently hiring. A lot of the responsibilities have not ben taken over by anybody.

David G: Our old president and Dante were taking over these responsibilities and it is unreasonable and incorrect for the HR committee to take on these responsibilities.

Sarah J: Seems like having a GM would be important for fair distribution of labour. How about from Finance or other ways we can cute expenses in other areas?

Dante M: There are definitively other ways we can recommend to cut expenses and areas we could explore to reduce. Some areas have been identified, our last process- when trying to pass our referendum they were identified. They will have an impact on services and students so we need to look specifically into various trade offs. We are also trying to find alternate ways to fine revenue without sacrificing the services. This definitely needs to be brought to attention in council immediately.

## **2. Feedback on creation of an ad hoc committee to prepare for the 2018 GSS-AMS Referendum**

**MOVER:**

**SECONDER:**

Natalie M: We are not proposing a motion for tonight, we are looking for feed and are trying to come up with specific Terms of Reference for creating an Adhoc Committee to prepare for the 2018 AMS/GSS Referendum.

From this brainstorming regarding terms of reference we will hopefully present an Adhoc Committee to be formed in leu of the referendum and present it in July's Council.

We are suggesting an Adhoc Committee be formed, we would need to start pretty soon, one month from now until the July council meeting. We have three groups who are going to come together and form a preliminary plan.

We want to create a motion to present an Adhoc Committee in the upcoming July council with Terms of Reference (broad strokes as to what this Adhoc committee would be doing)

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- 1) Conducting a usage and needs assessment of AMS services, clubs, and resources used for graduate students
- 2) Liaising with AMS executives and staff to gather info on existing agreements or terms of reference to access the AMS services by graduate students.
- 3) \*Brexit Proofing\* Determine how the different referendum results would affect graduate students, including but not limited to fees paid, access to services, and health and dental plan. Also to have the results of the referendum would effect the GSS, including but not limited to finances, gss budget, costs associate with the dental plan
- 4) Identify scope based on a needs assessment, collaborate with elections committee to develop a communications strategy with GSS membership
- 5) Collaborate with elections committee, various consultations, and communications strategies.
- 6) Prepare the exact wording of the referendum question for some date in 2018
- 7) Develop a plan to stably move forward with any referendum result
- 8) Have a follow up composition. Phases for 5 councillors and 3 ordinary members as an estimated number. Reflects expertise needed for this discussion

## Discussion:

Mackenzie L: I think the biggest thing we have to decide is which side we will choose regarding the referendum. Stay in the AMS or leave the AMS. Mandate will be dependent on weather want to argue one case or the other. Information cases, results, etc. More or less how do we see ourselves involved in this?

Shona R: Ya I disagree because I don't know if we can take a side until we see what they have come up with. We could modify the terms of reference later.

David G: I agree with Shona, once we see the Data we can make n informed decision and I do think that we should eventually decide what we would prefer. We first need to make sure we have done research.

Mackenzie L: I do think that is fair and true but I also think there is a different approach to take when you are forming an opinion. If you want to form a debate and campaign you need to have it done by the time the referendum is done. You will need to make a decision to provide recommendations for this council or not.

Nathaniel L: I think it would be wise to learn from our previous referendum experiences as well.

Conny L: No further discussions

## GSS Updates

### 1. Executive Remarks

*(3 minutes)*

President – Taran Dhillon

Absent.

Vice-President University & Academic Affairs – Teilhard Paradela

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Tei: I was given the task to organize the preliminary tasks on professional development training. Four topics thus far and early next week I will send an email detailing those topics. Topics include procedural fairness training, how to run meetings and other various interesting topics. All sessions are for executives, councillors, and ordinary members are welcome to participate as well.

Second update: The office for Sexual Assault Investigations is coming more real everyday. I stress this because the impudence of the creation came from the GSS as a result for the previous sexual assault cases a couple years back. The GSS has been pivotal in making this happen as evident in the sexual assault policy we had drafted. The university is looking for spaces for the Sexual Assault Office- possibly in Koerners. Also looking into hiring a director of investigations and also working alongside AMS to push this issue forward.

Regarding Supervisory Excellence- tons of parallel initiatives, presenting supervisory excellence to committee of associate deans- a high level meeting and we are excited. We are also collaborating with agencies and offices at UBC to push the issue. Also in the process of hiring Advocates, one of our advocates has moved onto another opportunity and the other is going on medical leave. Our advocates are our front runners, they deal with graduate students and concerns. We have worked with HR committee and this need to happen soon (hopefully by the end of this month)

Vice-President External Relations – Hannah Murray

Hanna: A lot of my projects are in the early stages, I have been planning conferences and conference trips. We have our exec retreat coming up and I am helping to plan that. I will have a better idea on what we plan on doing at ABCS as a whole. I have been brainstorming what happens with CASA and ABCS so maybe I can develop a better communication procedure between the two bodies.

Vice-President Students – Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi

Areezo: I have been working on events to plan and closely to the Health and Wellness and we have some events coming up. Greek Day as well as Ride Don't Hide- please join the GSS team! Working to plan some collaboration with FOGS GPS and Wellness Centre and AMS.

Another update about orientation- we have planned this already. We want to make one website instead of various websites, easier for students to follow up on one website.

Regarding Event Planning- trying to reduce redundancy regarding workshops, orientation should be exciting! We also changed it from being two weeks to every week in September. Regarding Advocacy- we had a meeting with the Louise Quinn of UBC and they expressed exciting planning / recreation. I brought up the issue that in planning the off campus people are left behind. So, we brainstormed if we can bring more services off campus.

Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Dante Mendoza

Dante M: Working on finance review in correlation with House Finance Committee. Also will we renew agreement with Pub? Something to think about. Big maintenance projects occurring at the GSS office. Goals of new execs- providing some preparation to those who develop a smart format for those goals. Event Fund- 2017 year.

## 2. Committee Reports

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*(3 minutes)*

Academic & External Affairs Committee – Dan Kehila

Tei: Dan will organize a meeting

Code and Policy Committee – Krish Maharaj

Krish: Nothing to say.

Executive Oversight Committee – Dante Mendoza

Dante: Have yet to call for a meeting- in the last few months we have been focusing on training executives.

House Finance Committee – Jennifer Campbell

Shona R: On behalf of Jen Campbell- sorry for the backlog of minutes I have provided a bunch to be approved at this meeting. We are working on a budget and changes in staff members, new sources of revenue and loss revenue. We are expected to give you the whole budget next month!

Human Resources Committee – Taran Dhillon

Services Committee – Matt Gynn

Arezo- Two meetings since last council. First meeting we discussed was this summer we need to plan around orientation and build our relationships with other students and build our popularity. Last week I looked over all the events I had planned for the year and presented to Nicole. Event Fund we felt that AO's are not honest with us about how much support they are receiving.

Elections Committee – Anna Ringsred

Harassment and Discrimination – Katerina Othonos

Katerina: We did not reach Quorum this past meeting. However me and my other committee member were able to put together an appendix of data for survey and some points to expand on our report for the AGM. We now have a skeleton for the final report and hopefully next meeting in July will finish the later part of the survey. The analysed / quantitative data will be worked on as well as comments on how to make it more concise.

Governance and Accountability Committee- Natalie Marshall

Natalie: We have had two meetings- taken our terms of reference and list of goals into the G & A committee and scheduled them into our goals for the year. We also want to have an internal governance review and the GSS as an organization- coming in the fall to you to receive suggestions.

### **3. Representative Reports**

*(3 minutes)*

AMS Council – Bradley Balaton

Graduate Council – Resha Sabti

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Senate – Miranda Huron and Francisco Gallegos

Francisco G: Last senate meeting with support of the undergraduate senators we passed the mandatory PHD funding. Some opposition from faculties such as education compared to others that don't have enough money. So both monetary funding and PHD passed! We are happy.

BOG – Jeanie Malone and Kevin Doering

Kevin D: Board of Governors- Updates: Appointments of new librarian Susan Parker. New Chancellor- Lindsay Gordon. Approval of classification of doctoral studies- 14<sup>th</sup> out of 15 schools to finally have a part time Doctoral program. Provincial Elections are also coming up next week.

## **N. Next Meeting**

Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **O. Adjournment**

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:12 pm.

**MOVER:** Mackenzie L.

**SECONDER:** James L.