

A. Attendance

1. Present: Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Spare Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Kallan Lyons, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Amber Shilling, Nicole So, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu
2. Regrets: Atefeh Samani, Emily Leischner, Erik Frieling, Megan Russell, Moutoshi Saha, Theresa Pauly, Zoe Lam
3. Absent: Anna Vozna, Balsher Sidhu, Darren Touch, David Gill, Eric Ottenbacher, Jeanie Malone, Kevin Doering, Nandinee Haq, Zeynab Nosrati
4. Quorum: 18 Councillors

B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:39pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.
MOVER: Emily Murphy SECONDER: John D.

For (18): Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Kallan Lyons, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

C. Introductions

D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
2. Committee minutes for approval:
 - a. *Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee: October 25; November 8, 2017.*
 - b. *Services Committee: October 27; November 8, 2017.*

Mover: Nathaniel Lim

Secunder: Alyssa Kirlin

For (20): Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Spare Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Kallan Lyons, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Minutes Approved.

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E. Strategic [Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society](#): Presentations & Motions

Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

Vision: The GSS continually strives to improve its efficiency, transparency, accountability, and communication in order to better fulfill its Mission.

1. Matters to Note

a. See final section for written updates from:

- | | |
|---|--|
| i. <i>President</i> | vi. <i>Code & Policy Committee</i> |
| ii. <i>Financial & Executive Oversight Officer</i> | vii. <i>Human Resources Committee</i> |
| iii. <i>Executive Oversight Committee</i> | viii. <i>AMS Council</i> |
| iv. <i>Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee</i> | ix. <i>Elections Committee</i> |
| v. <i>House Finance Committee</i> | x. <i>Senate</i> |

Alyssa: Anyone from HR to provide updates on hiring a GM?

Taran: It's high on priority now, but it's been slowed down due to financial constraints. There's no progress.

Nicolas: we're also missing the GM's job description. Have we finished it regardless of the financial situation?

Taran: not yet.

Natalie: When would be able to hire one?

Taran: There's no deadline and no definite time.

b. **Review of a new Process: Aligning GSS Committee Goals with the new GSS Strategic Plan**

- i. Proposed objective: To report to Council on the annual goals of all GSS standing committees and external caucuses/representatives, as required in the GSS Strategic Plan.
- ii. Group responsible: Nicolas R., Katerina O. (Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee)
- iii. Presentation time: 10 minutes
- iv. Presentation description: G&A will review: the process taken to develop annual committee goals aligned with our Strategic Plan; the overall status of goal-setting;

and how this year's committee goals address our Strategic Plan overall.

- v. *Relevant materials*: None until January, when G&A will provide Council with a thorough written report on all committee/caucus goals.

c. Presentation Title: GSS Executive Mid-term Review

- i. *Proposed objective*: This is to fulfill the mandate of the Executive Oversight Committee to conduct scheduled progress reviews on the GSS Executives and report to Council at the next meeting following the conclusion of the review process.
- ii. *Group Responsible*: Alyssa Kirlin, Jennifer Campbell and Natalie Marshall, on behalf of the GSS Executive Oversight Committee
- iii. *Presentation time*: 20 minutes
- iv. *Presentation description*: To give a brief overview of the review process used by the EOC, the goals set by each of the four elected executives, and their progress towards those goals thus far.
- v. *Relevant materials*: See .pdf (file to follow) for a written report containing more thorough details than we can address during the presentation.

<https://tinyurl.com/yaek9hlc>

Questions?

Natalie: On slide # 13 under VP Students, the satisfaction from the students for the orientation was much higher. 60% of the students who were satisfied with the orientation were, in fact, who have exclusively said they valued orientation creating peer connections. So, please correct it on your slide.

Nicolas: Regarding presidents goals, they look vague, a little hard to measure. Any plans to adjust them?

Presenter: The EOC has provided some suggestions, and we are currently waiting confirmation and cooperation for suggestions to implement to the president's goals, so we might have some ideas.

Nathaniel: Assuming from the outsider's view, is the EOC thinking of setting up a time frame for each of the goals? Maybe it's not quite possible due to the nature of things.

Presenter: Yes, to an extent, we have to allocate the time needed to get the job done to make sure things are on track. For this year's and the current review, the time we needed to do it was amplified due to the fact that we were essentially combining what should have been the May – June review process with the mid-term November–December review process. So, ideally, a lot of what we covered would have been two review processes rather than being crammed into one. We needed to give you some clarifications on it that EOC, in terms of reference, should have three review periods – one at the start of term one, one at the mid-term, and

one at the end of term. But, there was no start of term review period that was conducted with the current executives.

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Motion: House Finance Committee**

WHEREAS the GSS has rented Penthouse Space to Seedlings for many years and Seedlings is in good standing with the society

WHEREAS the profit from a rental to Seedlings would provide the GSS with a source of income for the winter term while still allowing the GSS to rent out this space to other interested parties outside of Seedlings business hours

BIRT the GSS council will renew the current contract between the GSS and Seedlings for rental of the Penthouse Space from January 2018 until the end of April 2018.

Mover: Christina Wiesmann Seconder: Nicole So

Questions:

Natalie: Can anyone from HF can speak whether this will affect any other spaces in this building?

Lisa: It will not affect much since the meetings are happening after Seedlings' business hours. and it's only for one term.

For (23): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Spare Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Sebastien Rettie, Amber Shilling, Nicole So, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

b. **Seatings**

i. New Councillors

BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:

Sebastien Rettie to be resealed as Departmental Representative for Physics and Astronomy.

Phil Angel to be seated as Departmental Representative for Zoology.

Rachel Goossen to be seated as Departmental Representative for Educational Studies.

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MOVER: Bradley SECONDER: Alyssa

For (22): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Spare Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Kallan Lyons, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Amber Shilling, Nicole So, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

_____ to the Code and Policy Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

_____ to the Code and Policy Committee as a Chair. (1 needed).

_____ to the Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).

_____ to the Elections Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

Jun Sian Lee to the Elections Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

_____ to the Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

Lily Takeuchi to the Executive Oversight Committee as a Councillor. (4 needed).

Madison Bolger-Munro to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (4 needed).

Arjun Banghela to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed)

Daniel Korvin to the House Finance Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

_____ to the House Finance Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

_____ to the Human Resources Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

Francisco Gallegos to the Human Resources Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).

_____ to the Services Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).

Andrew Zhang to the Services Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

_____ to the AMS Council as a GSS Representative. (1 needed).

MOVER: Katerina Othonos

SECONDER: Nathaniel Lim

For (21): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Spare Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Kallan Lyons, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Amber Shilling, Nicole So, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa

Zhu

Motion passed.

c. GSS Marketing Update

- i. *Group responsible:* Karen Leung, GSS Communications and Marketing Director
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* GSS Marketing Updates and Ideas
- iv. Proposed objective: To give the Council a brief update on Marketing activities to date for this executive term.
- v. *Relevant materials:* PDF of PowerPoint Slides –
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rMS68txHRJroDxy2TDy2rnEa3ZEBZNoh/view?usp=sharing>

Questions:

Nathaniel: Is there an emphasis on which topics are prioritized?

Presenter: Yes, whichever has a close deadline gets the priority.

Teilhard: Are there any pressing challenges you face now that council can help?

Presenter: We'd like to increase content and include things from our community.

Taran: She's been working on bringing info on our newsletters timely. All funding opportunities, job availabilities are up first. She's helped greatly on our outreach.

She's tried to fix the old logo. Feel free to contact her for any events to reach out to other grad students.

d. Senator Report to Council (Francisco Gallegos)

- i. *Group responsible:* Francisco Gallegos (Senator)
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 total (6 minutes presentation and 4 minute questions)
- iii. *Presentation description:* In this presentation I will discuss my goals (and other goals set by Student Senate Caucus. I will also bring up some of the issues that are being discussed in the committee's I represent in Senate, and I will be open for questions and feedback from councillors
- iv. *Proposed objective:* Give a in person report on the work on senate and current goals for 2017–2018, and answer questions
- v. *Presentation time:* 10 total (6 minutes presentation and 4 minute questions)
- vi. *Relevant materials:* Senator report & goals presented to council at the beginning of November –
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ufXVqEpwQn6M4xgpEbz9EMq6Uy7bucNu/view?usp=sharing>

Questions:

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Natalie: I don't remember seeing an update for the Referendum ad hoc committee for the last few months, what's your progress?

Bradley: We have our motion today to distribute the survey, and we are on track as of now and we'll be able to finish our goals by the next AGM.

Natalie: Is the legal assessment also being processed?

Brad: Yes, there's a committee meeting with the AMS and GSS.

... Next page: Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

F. Strategic Theme 2: Community: Presentations & Motions

Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

Vision: The GSS supports UBC graduate students by fostering a positive, inclusive, and connected community on and off-campus, and by actively supporting initiatives to improve health and well-being.

1. Matters to Note

a. See final section for written updates from:

i. *VP Students*

ii. *Services Committee*

iii. *Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc*

Committee

iv. *GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc*

Committee

b. Questions

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Affiliate Organization Recognition**

i. *Motion:*

WHEREAS the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization, therefore

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in December 2018:

1. GrasPods

2. Civil Engineering Graduate Student Society

3. Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association

4. Chemical and biological Engineering (CHBE) graduate student club

MOVER: Amber

SECONDER: Bradley

For (23): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Spare Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Amber Shilling, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu
Abstained: Kallan Lyons

Motion passed.

b. **Motion: GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee**

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WHEREAS the mandate of the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee includes the completion of a review of the use of AMS services by graduate students, and

WHEREAS the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee has decided to incorporate a survey as part of this process, and

WHEREAS the results of this survey will also aid other GSS bodies in their work, in areas including, but not limited to, advocacy pertaining to the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan, and managing the relationship between the GSS and the AMS, and

WHEREAS the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee has finalized the GSS-AMS Needs Assessment Survey, with input from GSS Council over the last two months,

BIRT GSS Council approves the distribution of the GSS-AMS Needs Assessment Survey from January 3rd to January 31st, 2018.

MOVER: Bradley Balaton

SECONDER: Katherina Othonos

For (25): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Spare Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Kallan Lyons, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Amber Shilling, Nicole So, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

... Next page: Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

G. Strategic **Theme 1: Academics:** Presentations & Motions

Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

Vision: The GSS empowers UBC graduate students to succeed in their academic endeavours by conducting data-driven advocacy.

1. Matters to Note

a. See final section for written updates from:

i. *VP University & Academic Affairs*

ii. *VP External Relations*

iii. *Academic & External Affairs
Committee*

iv. *Graduate Council*

v. *Senate*

vi. *Board of Governors*

b. Questions?

... Next page: *Matters for Discussion*

H. Matters for Discussion

1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:
2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:
3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

I. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting
 - a. **Date:** January 18, 2018
 - b. **Time:** 5:30 pm
 - c. **Location:** Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Student NestMotion to adjourn: at 7:04pm
2. Notice of Unseatings

Arjun Banghela to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Bioinformatics.
Shona Robinson to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Civil Engineering.
Addyson Frattura-Kampschrer to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Educational Studies.
Nathaniel Lim to be unseated as Councillor of House Finance Committee.
Jessica Li to be unseated as Ordinary Member of Services Committee.

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

- a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society
 - i. President
 1. Attended CASA meeting from Nov 26–Dec 1, 2017 in Ottawa where we met the Members of Parliament and Senators. We also met the President of SSHERC and Vice President of NSHERC
 2. We lobbied for 6 main asks as part of the CASA and Quebec Student Union for the following asks:
 3. Better Supporting students with Disabilities– recommended the federal government to increase the Canada Student Grant for Students with permanent Disabilities by 50% at an estimated additional cost of \$43 million per year.
 4. Creating a Canada Student Grant for the Graduate Students– this grant remains available only to the undergraduate students currently and the Tri-agencies scholarships only cover 2,500 students or approx. 2% of masters students (2012).
 5. To allow international students to do internship or Co-op under their study permit rather than requiring them to get separate co-op or intern work permit.
 6. Meeting Canada's obligations to indigenous learners and recommended that the

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per-student expenditure for PSSSP be increased from \$13,407 to \$17,307 for 18,262 current and 36,901 eligible students for a total PSSSP budget increase of \$2.1 billion over three years

7. We also recommended preserving education as a component of fair dealing under the Copyright Act, and preserving the existing exceptions to copyright infringement for educational institutions.
 8. Developing an Educational Open Resource (OERs): We recommended that the Tri-agencies create a pilot grant, at an estimated cost of \$8 million annually, that provides funding for graduate students and faculty to develop OERs.
 9. The PDF for the detailed asks and statistics can be found attached with this email.
- ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer
 - 1.
 - iii. Executive Oversight Committee
 - 1.
 - iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee
 - Re: Governance:
 - [Identified 8 major priorities for GSS governance](#) that are impacting the Society's function (as well as potential ways forward for each). We brought these to Council in November for your input, and now are focusing on the 4 top priorities you highlighted. We sent [Council a survey to get direction](#) so that we can proceed with developing more concrete and actionable plans to address these 4 priorities.
 - Compiled & sent Councillors [a resource on governance](#) (and the difference between operations) and how to put together a strong motion, particularly complex ones and the importance of committees/relevant-parties providing a researched Executive Summary.
 - Conducted a needs assessment for our Executive training & transition process, and developed preliminary recommendations, which we'll be sending to EOC.
 - Re: Accountability:
 - For the first time, the GSS (through G&A) will be evaluating GSS Committee annual goals. So far we have developed a process, and resources, for committees to set SMART goals aligned with the GSS Strategic Plan. So far, we have received goals from 5/7 standing committees, 4/4 external caucuses/representatives, and also from the FEEO (since it is inappropriate for the EOC to evaluate their Chair). These groups have also provided revisions to their goals according to the recommendations from G&A. More details will be provided in our presentation this month *and* in a formal report provided at January Council *and* in our committee minutes. (Committee progress on these

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- goals will be evaluated in ~March and September according to the Strat Plan).
- o Led a *GSS Strategic Plan* workshop at the GSS Council retreat to increase Councillor familiarity with the document.
- v. House Finance Committee
 - 1.
- vi. Code & Policy Committee
 - 1.
- vii. Human Resources Committee
 - 1.
- viii. AMS Council
 - 1. AMS services are getting new software to allow them to track usage of their services. This software can differentiate unique users and can track things such as graduate student and international student usage. The AMS is also against the plans for a parkade under the new McInnes Field as it would increase vehicular traffic in the electric bus loop and across an area with a large amount of pedestrian traffic. They are also continuing their Rent with Rights campaign which is about how the provincial tenant rights do not apply to students in campus residences."
- ix. Elections Committee
 - 1. The Election Committee has been searching for past GSS executives to interview to encourage people to run for GSS Executive. We have contacted a few, but are still working to set up interviews. If anyone knows of any GSS Executives prior to 2007, please let us know. We are also desperately looking for new committee members, since one of our members graduated and we no longer have quorum. Please join our committee so that we can conduct the upcoming elections in February or March!
- b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community
 - i. VP Students
 - 1. Event fund has been approved for:
 - i. Pathology student association
 - ii. Grad Wellbeing Network
 - iii. Vancouver prostate center graduate student association
 - 2. Reproductive and developmental sciences students organization
 - 3. EVENTS
 - i. GSS-Affiliated organizations' dinner was held on Dec 1st. This event was co-sponsored by UBC Vice President Students, Louise Cowin. She stayed briefly due to other commitments. Susan Porter also participated and made a speech.

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4. January events: Bowling (13th) whistler trip (27th)
5. Next semester classes (on campus): 2 Yoga class, 1 Zumba class, French 101 and 102
6. January Orientation:
 - i. Main day is January 4th in align with G+PS and international House. GSS will have pancake breakfast, campus tour, speed friending. January 5th, there will be welcome back Korner pub social. Everybody is welcome! Bowling and whistler trip is going to be advertised on orientation website
7. Surveys for Oct and Nov events was send out last week.
8. Off campus:
 - i. We are in the process of hiring French teacher to hold French class next semester at BC Children's hospital. We are also organizing another Yoga class at VGH for the next semester.
- ii. Services Committee
 1. Completed a new standardized survey to be issued out to participants for each GSS event/programming.
 2. Set 3 SMART goals with help from the Executive Oversight Committee. To summarize the Services Committee's 3 main goals for the upcoming year are:
 - i. Issue and evaluate the use of a standardized GSS event feedback survey to use student feedback to improve events.
 - ii. Improve participation in GSS events by 10% during this academic year (Sept 2017 – Aug 2018) compared to last year (Sept 2016 – Aug 2017).
 - iii. Increase the parity among "on-campus" and "off-campus" events/programming.
 3. Advised Nicole (Event Manager) to give tickets out in advance and set a meeting time for any future "Grad Night Outs."
- iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee
 1. Since the last council meeting we were able to complete the H&D survey, clean up the survey responses (removing duplicates or responses that were completely blank) and send out emails to the prize winners. We have surpassed our previous response rate with 2103 submitted responses, out of which 1932 are fully complete surveys! The committee was also able to complete the qualitative analysis of the 2016 stories and interviews; the most common theme/word from this analysis was the student-supervisor (relationship). This reinforces the work the GSS (and Supervisory Excellence Subcommittee) has done/been doing this past year to address this area of graduate student concern. The committee is now focused on contacting students that requested one-on-one interviews, analysis of open ended-responses from the 2016 survey and analysis of the new survey.
- iv. GSS/AMS Referendum ad hoc Committee

1.

c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

i. VP University & Academic Affairs

1.

ii. VP External Relations

1.

iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee

1.

iv. Graduate Council

1.

v. Senate

1.

vi. Board of Governors

1. BoG's December meeting had lots of discussion relevant to students. You can read the agendas and dockets online at bog.ubc.ca:

i. The principles and timeline of the new UBC strategic plan was discussed (in open) by President Ono & Provost Szeri – don't forget to send in your feedback on the current priorities on the [strategic plan website](#).

ii. The Stadium Road Neighbourhood planning process is well underway – the Board saw an [update](#) on what guiding principles have been decided upon through the public consultation period.

iii. UBC's housing action plan was [up for review](#), for both staff and students. We are pushing for a review of the policies listed in the student housing plan, which will be conducted by Governance Committee over the next few months.

iv. At the December Board meeting, the Board reviews [tuition](#) and [non-instructional](#) fees. We discussed the results of the student consultation and the systemic issues of asking for a 2–3% increase every single year.

v. A chunk of money from the last big round of international tuition increases was sectioned off to tackle the issue of diversity amongst our students. The [SDI update](#) includes their Year 1 plan, as well as some of the metrics measured last year identifying groups of students who feel particularly disconnected to the UBC community.

vi. The annual [sustainability report](#) is in – if you're interested in how UBC is striving to be a green leader, take a read through to see how we are doing.

J. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 pm.

MOVER: _____ SECONDER: _____ RESULT: ___djourned___