

GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 16, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Student Nest | 5:30 pm.

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 6:15 pm.

Quorum- 26 (28 with new seatings)

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Gen C.

SECONDER: Bradley B.

Amendment: Add 10 min presentation titled Elections (before referendum debate)

Mover: Anna R.

Secunder: Alyssa K.

Motivation: Anna R.: It's a short update on the GSS elections, and is time-sensitive, as the nominations close tomorrow.

Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

Amendment: Bradley B. to be unseated from the Services Committee and AMS Council Representative.

Harry Li is automatically unseated from the AMS Council.

Mover: Bradley B.

Secunder: John D.

Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

Amendment: Gen C. sent a revised copy of the agenda, with the addition of seating Anna Vozna as the Department Representative for the Faculty of Education (Department of Language and Literacy), strike 'Board' from section E. GSS Updates, 2. Committee Reports, Governance and Accountability Committee.

Mover: Gen C.

Secunder: Yaseen M.

Amendments passed by unanimous consent.

Amendment: Nick M. add endorsement of Communities on the Move Declaration from the BC Healthy Living Alliance.

Mover: Nick M.

Secunder: Gen C.

Motivation: Received information from the ABCS on Tuesday about this declaration and it's important for the GSS to support this.

Opposition:

Yaseen M.: Is this a position statement? It hasn't been posted online.

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Gen C.: There has been a position statement this year that has come through without going on the website, so it's to the council's discretion to allow it. I suggest a vote.

Chair: The vote by council would decide whether or not to include this on the agenda and whether it is considered a position statement or not.

Yaseen M.: Motivation: Having precedent for a position statement not being posted online should not mean it should be considered.

Amendment passed by a majority vote and is included on the agenda.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Agenda adopted as amended by unanimous consent.

The Chair wishes to acknowledge our presence on the unseeded, traditional, and ancestral land of the Musqueam people. The Chair wishes to acknowledge that learning has occurred on this territory long before this institution was established, and we are privileged to be living, working, and learning on this territory today.

B. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes

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

- December Council Meeting

Mover: Bradley B.

Secunder: Amanda P.

Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

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 February 2018:

- **Cell Biology and Physiology Graduate Society**

MOVER: Mackenzie L.

SECONDER: Amanda P.

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Motivation: GSA for Cell and Developmental Biology program (funded by department so blended program and department name); run events and act as a resource for the program.

Vote: passed by unanimous consent.

C. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

4. BIRT the following Unseatings be approved:

Emily Grey be unseated as the Departmental Representative for School of Community and Regional Planning

Marysol Garcia Patino to be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Pharmaceutical Sciences

Shona Robinson to be unseated as the chair of House Finance.

Mirza Sarwar be unseated as the departmental representative for Electrical and Computer Engineering

Bradley Balaton to be unseated from the Services Committee and AMS Council (Representative)

Harry Li is automatically unseated from the AMS Council.

BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

Anna Vozna to be seated as the Department Representative for the Faculty of Education (Department of Language and Literacy)

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

Zeynab Nosrati be seated as the Departmental Representative for Pharmaceutical Sciences

Hanna Murray be seated as the Departmental Representative for History

Mover: Yaseen M.

Secunder: Nick M.

Vote: passed by unanimous consent.

5. BIRT the following Seatings are approved:

_____ be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee (2 Councillors)

_____ be seated to the House Finance Committee (1 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)

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Motivation: Dante M.: meet twice a month, discuss the facilities/building including the pub, go over the budget and expenses the society incurs, and the budget coming up, so busy in the next few months.

Yaseen M.: new board members must join at least 1 committee, don't be afraid to sign up, talk to the committee chairs, try a meeting.

Jennifer C. be seated as chair of the House Finance Committee

Min Xia, Sumeet M. (ordinary members) be seated to the Human Resources Committee. (2 Councillors, 2 Ordinary Members)

_____ be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Committee (1 Ordinary Member)

Motivation: Katerina O.: We're at a critical point analyzing data from the survey. It's exciting!

_____ be seated to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee (2 Councillors)

_____ be seated to the Strategic Planning Ad-hoc Committee (1 Ordinary Member)

Alyssa K. and Min X. be seated to the Elections Committee (2 Councillors, 3 Ordinary Members)

Motivation: Meet on an ad hoc basis, approx. every 2 weeks, over soon as election is, in a month.

Miranda H. be appointed as graduate student representative to the UBC Vancouver Provost Search Committee

Motivation: Gen C.: grad student who had volunteered isn't responding to the search committee so the GSS was contacted to provide someone; you get to choose one of the most important administrators in the university – looks good on resume.

Meeting dates and times for UBC Vancouver Provost Search Committee

Wednesday, February 15th 9:00-11:30 am

Friday, March 3rd 8:30 am-12:00 pm

Monday, March 6th 9:00 am-12:30 pm

Tuesday, March 7th 12:00 pm-3:30 pm

Monday, March 27th 8:30-10:30 am

Tuesday, March 28th 3:30-5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 29th 3:30-5:30 pm

Thursday, March 30th 8:30-10:30 am

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Aneet B. be seated to the Services Committee

Mover: Mackenzie L.

Secunder: Christina W.

Vote: passed by unanimous consent.

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

1. Setting the date of March Council and AGM to March 23rd

WHEREAS two executives will be away for the CASA Annual General Meeting, and will not be able to organize the AGM for March 16, 2017

BIRT March Council and AGM be scheduled for March 23, 2017

Mover: Bradley B.

Secunder: Amanda P.

Motivation: Gen C.: Nick and Gen will be away at CASA just before the GSS AGM so can't organize it.

Discussion:

Question:

Bradley B.: Any policy about when the AGM must be scheduled?

Gen C: It must be held in March according to policy, and we set the date in February council meeting.

Vote: passed by unanimous consent.

2. Elections: Anna R.

Elections for new executives are March 6-10, and the nomination period ends tomorrow (has been going for 3 weeks). Do not have many nominees.

Need nominations for open positions as executives; councillors bring knowledge and experience, and have GSS commitment by being councillors so are encouraged to join; get benefits of leadership skills, etc. and looks good on resume.

Motivation:

Jennifer D. (VP Students): incredibly rewarding experience; worked with students, faculty and staff to improve the university experience of our members, facilitated events through the event fund, urging administrators to consider grad student perspectives on diverse issues, etc.; felt grateful, enlightened and empowered from experience; gained confidence, communication, negotiation and leadership skills, networking opportunities,

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diverse project facilitation, friendships developed; if candidates understand role and responsibilities, encouraged to apply. Thank you, and I miss you all.

Taranjit S. (interim VP Students): here 1 for month, and so far had an amazing experience. Did 2 weeks transition, learned portfolio has a lot of scope for funding and organizing events; be full time VP for full experience.

Mashid G. (VP Academic): year of welcoming relationships with professionals that became friendships, learned a lot about managing communications and leading groups of people, improving social skills, be a member of community and help people. Good opportunities for experienced and new council members. Experience and insights helpful for the GSS moving forward. Make great change in GSS for future.

Nick M. (VP External Relations): have been chief lobbyist for grad students at UBC (represent 10 000 students – largest grad student society in Canada) – remarkable to meet diverse people and learn a lot. So much profession development and work with politicians. Get to engage with government, members of ABCS and CASA and AcEX; work with diff structures/organization, work with UBC executives, very supportive.

Gen C. (President): hasn't been easy to have been new to council so had to learn a lot about GSS – help and patience from councillors made experience worthwhile. Experience is good for this position, but new people can do it too. Met people from council during early time at UBC and was struggling, so motivated to be president to give back and help others with issues; be part of community, collaborate and connect with students, and lots of learning from councillors (academia and life); great friendships developed. Grateful for this opportunity and learning. We will help you with transition and we won't let you down.

Anna R.: nominate yourselves or someone else. Develop leadership skills. Everyone has the skills required to do the job, so don't think you can't. Ask questions of Anna or executives. Nominations close tomorrow, so get in your nomination; GSS can't run without these positions. Especially need VP Academic and External Relations applications.

2. GSS Referendum

Presentation Title: GSS Referendum

Presented by: Genevieve Cruz

Description: The communications plan for the GSS referendum. For Questions please email president@gss.ubc.ca

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Met at 2 p.m. today to discuss the plan; thanks to Bradley B. and Sarah J. for sharing experience with communications.

Plan recap: \$4/student/installment; been in discussion since Oct. 20 but brought up 2 years ago.

First presented fee increase proposals Oct. 20; held break-out discussions about process, communication plan on Nov. 10.

Revised new question on Dec. 8 and Jan. 19 was GSS long-term future of staff discussion, developed informal task force.

Break-out session recap: don't rely on social media, be mindful of varying department cultures, be available for face to face, time referendum with elections.

Online Strat Plan: redefine your GSS: one stop shop site to promote election, referendum, strat plan, AGM (gss.ubc.ca/redefine/referendum)

For candidates: include referendum in all candidate meetings, debate, and other election related events, resources to promote

For GSAs and AOs: broadcast email to them with link to website; promote at dinner on Feb. 23 – will ask if the site is helpful and will give more support

For councillors: what medium does your department respond well to? Poster, brochure, info session, emails, etc.?; if pass increase, GSS will pledge \$5 to national service dogs for each councillor who forwards email to their department – send screenshot. \$10 giftcard if help with other media (posters/brochures – tell Gen how many needed; info session – when to come to department; one of executive or candidate will help explain)

Contingency plan (if it fails): proposed areas for cuts: staff, emergency fund/advocacy program, etc. – see website

Main message: consider the referendum and how to help next set of executives

Extend time by 5 min; mover: Mackenzie L; seconder: Yaseen M, passes.

Questions:

Min X.: will voting for the referendum be online?

Gen C.: yes

David G.: need to emphasize what people would lose – people get passionate about what they lose rather than gain.

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Natalie M.: for most students, lack of money for GSS is low impact; more impact if highlight tangible effect for students to emphasize what they would lose, and the fact that it's to help keep the GSS, not bonus-funding.

Resha S.: if staff is cut, what area would that be and would volunteers from council be required? Could we have more information on what would be cut and why it's not useful to the GSS?

Gen C.: have highlighted on website what might be lost if referendum doesn't pass; in terms of staff, discuss how staff helps to professionalize the society and maintaining institutional memory; see benefits of fee increase on website – looking at what GSS has advocated for this year– will have links added to know more, along with events held, etc.

Natalie M.: move to extend by 5 min, seconder: Amanda P., passed.

Natalie M.: Great website, distilled down to important questions and is clear and helpful. But just looking at what happens if the referendum fails doesn't sound so bad, so doesn't capture true situation and impact – could we show what it would look like or what it means/would lead to?

Yaseen M.: amazing; good job. Thanks for the hard work! Benefits of fee increase: is it misleading? Do I get everything proposed for \$4? Do I get 1 thing out of 6? It says there is an estimate of saving \$50k for staff, but currently have no GM, so is the fee increase still needed here?

Dante M.: number was from keeping GM position; would need to be discussed as important item; not having a GM right now helps reduce deficit for this year, but if want to continue trend we had, need the increase.

Gen C.: needs more editing, and can we think of a process? Will promote website on Monday if approved.

Amanda P.: been talking to grad students, half went on website to look at budget but is from 2015 and had surplus so saying there is a deficit is misleading; need story to explain added services and now can't support with current budget.

Gen C.: wanted to expand events fund but may be limiting next set of executives and the GSS if say what \$4 leads to and where will be distributed if promised; can link to services and budget on site.

Amanda P.: can budgets that have not approved be shown? Students need current budget for full information.

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Gen C.: have chart on how expenses changed through years, including operations, and student activities etc., took out so students not confused; maybe add back as link.

Chair: at time for discussion, so will entertain the following motion and continue discussion outside of council.

WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver (GSS UBCV) requires increased revenue in order to maintain and expand its capacity to serve graduate students studying at UBC Vancouver;

WHEREAS 27.1(2) of the University Act states that approval of these fees requires majority vote in a referendum of GSS members run in accordance with Bylaw 6 of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver and the Society Act;

WHEREAS GSS Bylaw 6.1.3 further states that Council shall ensure that the wording of the referendum is clear and unambiguous, capable of being answered yes or no,

BIRT a referendum be called by the President of the Graduate Student Society to seek the approval of the aforementioned fee increase be available online to students on the same week of the GSS Executive Elections;

BIFRT that the referendum question will be: "WHEREAS the GSS collects fees from members in three installments per year, do you support an increase to the GSS fee by \$4.00 per instalment?"

Mover: Mackenzie L.

Second: Nick M.

Motivation: Gen C.: comments in this meeting have been about content of communication plan, will send link before Monday to work offline, email Gen to be part of this; same discussion from Dec. and timing right with elections and referendum on Mar 6-10.

Discussion:

John D.: the wording on the BIFRT clause is unclear.

Min X.: three installments of \$4 each? So \$12 total?

David G.: actually have 4 terms since summer is 2 terms, so maybe semester makes more sense?

Chair: UBC uses terms

Alyssa K.: maybe drop term 'term' and only use instalment

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Natalie M.: friendly amendment: add o in “of” in BIRT clause; amend wording of nested whereas clause to BIFRT

Mover: Natalie M. **Second:** Yaseen M.

Motivation: Natalie M.: make it more clear to students exactly how much is expected from them.

Vote: amendment passed by unanimous consent.

Min X.: vote online, so do we have quorum for referendum?

Nick M.: Set by bylaws to be 600 votes

Natalie M.: Should more content from the GSS whereas clauses be included in the referendum question to give students more info?

Gen C.: want clarity for students so try to keep uncluttered, so want them to look for info if need it instead of whereas clauses with select, condensed info

Chair: include links to help?

Gen C.: yes

Chair: long referendum questions cause anxiety.

Yaseen M.: appreciate all great work done but can't vote in support of asking members this question; consulted with department and students don't support the fee increase; uncertainty in mind including GM and AMS referendum question.

Chair calls the question: vote: 30 in favour/3 opposed – motion is adopted.

3. GSS Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021

Presentation Title: *Presenting the GSS Strategic Plan (2017-2021), 4th draft*
Presented by: Natalie Marshall, Chair, GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee
Description: GSS Bylaws require that the GSS have a strategic plan. This presentation will summarize the process involved in writing the current (4th) draft of the GSS Strategic Plan, and will provide a brief overview of the accountability system. Later in this agenda, there is a Council motion that proposes ratifying the document and appending it to the GSS Policy Manual. For related questions, please contact Natalie at <ncmarshall@msl.ubc.ca>.

Natalie M.: strat plan = big picture priorities for the GSS for the next 3-5 years, used to monitor success and progress.

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Why does the GSS have one? It helps to guide through the annual transition in unified direction, with transparency of goals, to get feedback from members for society priorities, and required in bylaws (must be added in manual appendix).

Mar 2015 – start plan ad hoc committee; then iterative process with research, consulting, drafting, post online, get approval from council tonight; then implement

Three themes: academics, community, society itself

WHEREAS, GSS Bylaws state that, "The Society shall have a Strategic Framework approved by Council by a Special Resolution; the Framework establishes the priorities and direction of the Society" (Bylaw 14.1), and

WHEREAS, the GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee completed a draft GSS Strategic Plan, which was made available to all GSS members in December 2016, and

WHEREAS, the GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee conducted several online and in-person consultations with GSS members, GSS Committees, and GSS Executives, in December 2016 and January 2017, and

WHEREAS, the GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee has incorporated this feedback into a fourth draft of the GSS Strategic Plan, which was posted on the GSS website and communicated to all GSS members seven days before consideration at Council, and

WHEREAS, GSS Bylaws state that, "The Strategic Framework shall be circulated to all members of Council as an appendix to the Policy Manual" (Bylaw 14.3); therefore BIRT GSS Council ratify the GSS Strategic Plan (titled "GSS Strategic Plan: 2017-2021"), and

BIFRT GSS Council approve the addition of the Strategic Plan to the GSS Policy Manual as Appendix XIII as amended by council (without appendix III).

Questions:

Yaseen M.: excellent work and thanks; draft 4 of the plan has a series of appendices; hate appendices in appendices and will it be added to the manual or just online?

Natalie M.: sorry, the plan got long, tried to abbreviate and make readable with appendices; will put this into appendix in policy manual, so maybe can rename appendix?

Krish M.: haven't seen appendices in appendices but not sure if convention; can be called subsection in appendix

Natalie M.: does council want to turn appendix sections into subsections, can do it now?

Yaseen M.: remove all of appendix 3?

Natalie M.: main plan is 10-12 pages long, and goes into strategies to carry out goals and priorities; long but want preserved; appendix 3 is goals and priorities and high readability; if not helpful can delete it.

Amanda P.: can we approve it for the website but not include it in the manual?

Natalie M.: can do any of that. If in manual, always there for reference; if not useful doesn't need to be there; can make shortened version. Let Natalie know so she can submit the appropriate version.

Yaseen M.: motion to amend to delete appendix 3

Chair: discussion is on presentation not motion, any further questions? Ok, move on to motion.

Mover: Natalie M.

Second: Nick M.

Motivation: Natalie M.: tried to include all info needed in whereas clauses and presentation; passing in compliance with bylaws but also must agree with plan as it is. Strat plan supposed to be done in 2016 as starts in 2017 so need it passed to use for transition and incoming executive.

Discussion:

Yaseen M.: motion to amend to strike appendix 3 in the strat plan (re-word bifrt to add to end: as amended by council (without appendix III)).

Mover: Yaseen M.

Second: Alyssa K.

Motivation: Yaseen M.: should be pretty and online since so much work put into it, so do without extra few pages – pull out goals, etc. in appendix III

Vote: amendment passed with 24 in favour, 2 abstaining.

Natalie M.: Amend brackets of bifrt – change to rename appendices as subsections and remove subsection III

Chair: change by council as housekeeping; bracket was to clarify

Vote: motion passes by unanimous consent.

4. GSS Position Statement on Supervisory Excellence

Presentation Title: *Proposing a GSS Position Statement on Supervisory Excellence*

Presented by: Natalie Marshall, Chair, GSS Supervisory Excellence Sub-Committee

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Duration: 5 minutes

Description: What do we consider 'supervisory excellence'? How can we help foster supervisory excellence at UBC for GSS members? Later in this agenda, a position statement is proposed (in the form of a motion), outlining a recommended GSS stance on supervisory excellence. A Briefing Note has also been provided for a quick overview. This presentation aims to provide Councillors with the background and context behind the proposed position statement as well as the process involved in its development. For related questions, please contact Natalie at [<ncmarshall@msl.ubc.ca>](mailto:ncmarshall@msl.ubc.ca) or Anna [<anna.ringsred@ubc.ca>](mailto:anna.ringsred@ubc.ca) or Alyssa at [<alyssakirlin@cmmt.ubc.ca>](mailto:alyssakirlin@cmmt.ubc.ca).

Natalie M.: position statement is society's means of expressing opinion, sentiment or principle. Helps in lobbying and must have briefing note to council. Briefing note is executive summary with info to support why society should have that position.

Need for supervisory excellence position statement: lobby to improve relationships with students and supervisor; open discussion at FOGS and priority for UBC Senate; GSS has representatives on those committees so having statement helps them lobby for it to best represent students.

Statement says: university should want to foster excellent supervision which benefits students and therefore the supervisor, and university which gets better students.

Next steps: meeting with UBC supervision leadership group tomorrow, and Senate mental health and wellbeing committee, and Senate teaching and learning committee, so lobby each of them.

Questions:

Yaseen M.: considered student-supervisor contracts?

Natalie M.: yes, was a big idea going in, thinking these problems would disappear; consultation showed that increased dialogue on spirit of what was wanted is more powerful and then position statement can be used to lobby for it.

Anna R.: open and continued communication is in there and want to see it used not specific to contract as was told that was too specific, politically-charged, not taken seriously, so not included.

Alyssa K.: up to groups lobbying for what exactly wanted, may be department specific, so left flexible for adoption.

WHEREAS, the GSS advocates for, promotes, and protects the academic, social, intellectual, cultural and recreational interests of its members, and

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WHEREAS, UBC recognizes that, “graduate education is greatly affected by the nature of the supervision and the quality of communication between graduate students and their supervisors,” and

WHEREAS, UBC ranked below the national average in graduate student satisfaction with their supervisor in the Canadian Graduate & Professional Student Survey, and WHEREAS, less than 70% of UBC graduate student respondents in the 2015 GSS Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey agreed or strongly agreed that they had appropriate academic supervision, and

WHEREAS, the UBC Senate Mental Health & Wellbeing ad hoc Committee has identified the student-supervisor relationship as a key area affecting student mental health, and has suggested the creation of stronger guidelines, standards, and requirements for supervisors, including possible mandatory training and the creation of support resources, and

WHEREAS, supervisory excellence is a topic of active discussion at UBC by the Supervision Leadership Group, the Ombuds Office, and the Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, requiring graduate student input, and

WHEREAS, the literature on graduate supervision pedagogy reveals that excellent graduate student supervision helps produce satisfied and productive students, which in turn has a positive effect on a university’s reputation and leads to improved enrolment of high caliber students and increased research funding, and

WHEREAS, defining ‘supervisory excellence’ must involve the consideration of: academic advising, structure and support, communication and availability, respect, discipline-specific skills, and a balance of direction and self-direction that fosters student growth, and

WHEREAS, supervision is most successful when treated as pedagogy which includes training, continuous learning, and a commitment to personal growth, and

WHEREAS, differences are natural between different individuals, disciplines and cultures, supervisory styles need to be flexible in order to accommodate the multitude of these differences, and

WHEREAS, open, two-way communication between students and supervisors is essential for both academic success and fostering supportive relationships to facilitate the navigation of challenges that arise during the degree program; this includes setting clear expectations and having regular meetings with constructive feedback, and WHEREAS, addressing the unique needs of international graduate students requires intercultural fluency, and

WHEREAS, graduate students face new challenges and require diverse proficiencies in the modern job market, and

WHEREAS, current methods of assessing graduate student satisfaction do not effectively assess the quality of student-supervisor relationships, and this miss some of the key elements of the graduate student experience, therefore

BIRT the GSS recommends that UBC develop its own definition of supervisory excellence that will guide decision making in areas surrounding graduate student education, and

BIFRT the GSS recommends that UBC actively foster a culture of graduate student supervision as pedagogy by implementing:

- High quality and mandatory training for graduate student supervisors as well as workshops and peer mentoring programs available for the ongoing development of supervisor proficiencies in the spirit of continuous learning,
- Methods of assessment that consider feedback from both students and peers, and
- The consideration of graduate student supervision philosophies and proficiencies in the criteria for hiring and promotion decisions, and

BIFRT the GSS recommends that UBC consider the value of and need for flexibility and different styles in supervisory training, workshops, and evaluation and assessment, and

BIFRT the GSS recommends that UBC fosters a culture of open, continuous, two-way communication between graduate students and supervisors, including the setting of clear expectations, regular meetings, and written student-supervisor agreements to be developed jointly by graduate students and supervisors when and where appropriate, and

BIFRT the GSS Council directs the GSS Executive Committee to familiarize incoming graduate students with the resources available to support positive working relationships with their supervisor at GSS Orientations, including the setting of clear expectations, and regular meetings, and

BIFRT the GSS recommends that UBC provide resources and workshops that educate supervisors on the unique challenges of conducting international graduate studies, and facilitate dialogue on cultural differences, including different learning and mentoring styles and the challenges of adapting to unfamiliar cultural norms, and

BIFRT the GSS recommends that UBC fosters a culture where all graduate student supervisors are supportive of their students' reasonable pursuit of learning and teaching activities outside the bounds of the thesis, and

BIFRT the GSS recommends that UBC investigate barriers to timely program completion and identify effective measures to decrease average graduate student time to completion, and

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BIFRT the GSS recommends that UBC creates a culture that emphasizes the role of the supervisory committee as an important resource for students and endeavours to ensure committee composition is in the best interest of the student, and

BIFRT GSS Council directs the GSS Taskforce for the GSS Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey to revise and expand the sections of the annual GSS survey to better assess the quality of graduate student-supervisor relationship and the quality of supervision, and

BIFRT GSS Council directs the VP Academic & University Affairs, the Academic & External Affairs Committee, and the Graduate Council GSS Caucus to advocate for these changes with the UBC Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Graduate Council, Senate, Board of Governors, and the UBC President, as appropriate.

Mover: Natalie M.

Second: Bradley B.

Motivation: Natalie M.: useful to have position statement when joining discussion about this topic to build campaign on, especially with FOGS and Senate.

Discussion:

Yaseen M.: FOGS policy on this; when enter department, get a letter from department mandated by university about funding the student will received. Motion to amend: 1st BIFRT clause – add bullet to list.

Mover: Yaseen M.

Second: Mackenzie L.

Motivation: help with transparency and fits in that cluster of points; not restrictive.

Mackenzie L.: what would such a contract look like/what is purpose/what is benefit?

Natalie M.: idea of contract is “contract” not necessarily legally binding; document 1-2 pages that student and supervisor meet to fill out together to dialogue and agree on expectations; maybe fill in the blanks, with expectations; open conversation to agree how will progress; examples from around Canada – include funding decisions; helps avoid conflict; is a document from UBC that needs improvement to guide this discussion but not contract and wishy-washy; avoid contract since no reinforcement.

Alyssa K.: think Yaseen’s amendment is not in correct place so should move down 2 bifrts.

David G.: has experience with sales; ‘contracts’ has negative connotation, so maybe call it ‘agreements’ – suggest amendment to agreement and include ‘written’.

Mover: David G.

Second: Mackenzie L.

Motivation: negative connotations and past experiences

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Mashid G.: been a lot of talk about student-supervisor relationships, a lot of organizations on board, try to keep friendly and mild relationship; if have a threatening position, scares them, so wording of 'agreement' may scare people and get push-back.

Natalie M.: changing from contract to agreement negates issue of legal/enforceability and more friendly, but note that this would be one point of contention in meeting tomorrow; get into issues with approvals

Vote on amendment (David G.) to amendment (Yaseen M.): 18 in favour, 5 abstain, amendment passed.

Yaseen M.: agreement form on GPS website (student-supervisor agreement); purpose is to go through exercise with student and supervisor; helpful to have and is two-way for expectations.

Sarah J.: appreciate softer wording (agreement vs. contract), but seems pugilistic since ends with 'where appropriate' which implies that it's rhetorical and is left up to the departments. If it's going to create disagreement and isn't a strong word, is it necessary to have?

Keskine O.: what if student gets into agreement when ill-informed, and if agreement is breached and not enforceable, what happens? What about current students?

Mashid G.: agreement is old issue from different meetings and has been brought up to university; meeting with Dr. Ono next week to present this; it's too much to say we want this, will discuss ways to achieve goals but when written down won't work effectively.

Anna R.: already have loose agreements for all students, more like suggestions, and the issue is no enforcement; historical issue.

Alyssa K.: friendly amendment to fix punctuation

Keskine O.: motion to strike word incoming.

Mover: Keskine O. **Seconder:** Natalie M.

Motivation: a grad student is grad student; the word incoming is ambiguous so better to be clear; all students deserve same right to discuss expectations.

Against: Anna R.: really important for new people to set expectations up front, otherwise could happen at any point in grad student career and needs to be early.

Natalie M.: if remove incoming, may be vague, need to focus on incoming; important to do in parallel with orientation; still useful for current students so could broaden to include continuous conversations.

Vote on amendment to amendment (strike 'incoming'): 14/5/9, amendment passes.

Vote on amendment (Yaseen M.): 17/13/2, amendment passes.

Natalie: motion to amend: change to 'when and where appropriate' as a consideration for timing.

Mover: Natalie M. **Second:** David G.

Motivation: consideration for when the discussion should happen

Anna R.: should have phrasing in document to talk about enforcement; separate bullet point.

Mover: Anna R. **Second:** Mackenzie L.

Motivation: have had past issues since no enforcement, enforcement is harsh so need incentives.

Against: Amanda P.: supervisors have to agree to this or it won't pass and if they think students are trying to control them, they shut down, so supervisors may read this as something tied to funding and tenure so will fight against it; save enforcement for when have gotten approval and then ask how they will make it happen.

Rachele B.: optimistic, but we would need to be the ones to propose incentives for this; without that, they can interpret as they please.

Keskine O.: since 2 parties at play, should get their input and get them on board; will be willing when consult them.

Vote (amendment from Anna): 7/19/6, amendment defeated.

Overall vote on position statement: 29/0/3, motion passes.

5. Graduate Student Nap Space in the GSS Loft

Presentation Title: Nap Space in the Nest

Presented by: Graduate Student Wellbeing Network Coordinator – Adela Gherga

Description: A proposal from the Graduate Student Wellbeing Network to turn room 4202C into a nap space

Adela: Need grad student-run help for mental health to cater to grad student needs; there is a disconnect between university provisions and student needs; Graduate Student Wellbeing Network (GSWN) provides support and resources; open discussion on topic/remove stigma; proposal for office/nook modeled on BCIT nap room, funding

from UTown Wellbeing and application to UBC equity enhancement fund; want partnership with GSS.

Motion to extend time by 10 mins: **Mover:** Yaseen M, **Second:** Mackenzie L.

Proposed space uses: resources, refuge, meeting, free/open discussions (safe space) and headquarters for GSWN and nap space with comfort in mind; would have booking and access organization and security.

Questions:

Mackenzie L.: would agreement with AMS prevent this?

Gen C.: use is up to us, space belongs to GSS.

David G.: use loft a lot, and there are 2 offices: one locked, one used for group work and projects; would the one being used for work still be open and the locked one would be for nap space?

Mashid G.: locked room is advocacy office and they have not yet moved in; can still use boardroom if not booked.

Proxy for Gillian F. (David): are there plans in place to maintain hygiene?

Adela: yes, will use system similar to BCIT.

Anna R.: is sign-up sheet similar to BCIT?

Adela: BCIT uses online system through university, no access for GSWN so this one is google form document.

Proxy for Amanda P. (Nathaniel): if use online google form, are there concerns with privacy?

Adela: want to piggy back on UBC booking system so have shown what sheet might look like.

Yaseen M.: is GSWN affiliated with GSS as an AO?

Adela: stand alone, but would like to arrange something.

WHEREAS The Graduate Student Wellbeing Network, a student group consisting entirely of graduate students, has acquired funding to convert Room 4202C of the GSS loft into a graduate student meeting space, office and nap space to be managed jointly by the GSS and GSWN.

WHEREAS The Graduate Student Wellbeing Network (GSWN) has proposed their space usage plan to the GSS council on January 19, 2017

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BIRT The GSS approves use of room 4202C as a nap space by the GSWN provided that the organization maintains AO status with the GSS.

Mover: Sarah J.

Second: Yaseen M.

Discussion:

David G.: appreciate work of GSWN but had half of loft lost due to pottery club for undetermined length of time; space meant for research and study time and rest for hanging out; some grad students lack work space, and so loft used for working. Very important office space would be taken up leaving only the boardroom. If space is cut, grad students can't use space as they'd like – should make sure other office is open for student use.

Yaseen M.: should the space be given if organization isn't an AO? If it were, they would be beholden to bylaws. Also, should be clear this would be headquarters for GSWN not nap space. Would give non-AO dedicated space. Would need to amend the wording on this to expand on nap space/office use.

Alyssa K.: what's going on with pottery club space?

Nick M.: space use has an expiry date, end of sept 2017.

Min X.: Should support space but all grad students member of GSS and can access space so why not approach AMS to get more nest space since GSS space is limited and full-used.

Bradley B.: old sub renovations pushed back into Dec., so pottery club space-use may be extended.

Gen C.: tedious to get space from AMS, could have GSWN affiliated as AO in next council and shouldn't hinder decision to approve.

Keskine O.: expiry date for pottery club may be renewed? And should have healthy relationship with emotions, so should back this.

Nick M.: have an agreement with sub-agreement about use of space for pottery club, so if AMS needs to use space on extended basis, they would need to re-negotiate with GSS.

Alyssa K.: has great potential as resource for all grad students at UBC and wellbeing space is limited; lack of office space addressed by libraries and other work space.

Anna R.: great idea, GSS should provide to students as there is a need. Is it important that primary use is headquarters rather than nap? Nap should be primary use and office ad hoc.

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Natalie M.: should support lack of office space and space on campus doesn't serve grad students, strat plan supports this, so have identified this as advocacy point by GSS; GSS has been working with GSWN for long time to establish nap space; agree about having GSWN as an AO but talks go back into 2015 so should honor agreement as GSWN has been understanding.

Proxy for Amanda P. (Nathaniel): materials left in unsecure location, so does GSS have secure location to keep in case of continued deliberation?

Dante M.: yes, we have locked space.

Yaseen M.: e-mailed proposed wording amendments to the motion; there's a desk and want to put in bed? What is layout?

Adela: not bed, just cushions, so nap nook; would still be work space but could also nap and book time.

Mover: Yaseen M. **Seconder:** Nick M.

Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

David G.: hours may be restricted, and students currently use it for extended hours; what do students value? Value as a working space; hour restrictions hamper that.

Rachele B.: agree partially with David and people are loss-averse, and excited with workspace, so if change this, assure them that are moving forward with establishing more work space.

Gen C.: managing space is part of evaluation on how students use it and align with goals so let's approve it and concerns with space use go to GSS and GSWN to be addressed.

Nick M.: **call to question**, **Seconder:** Sarah J., call passes by unanimous consent.

Vote: 24/1/4, motion passes.

6. Audited Financial Statements

Presentation Title: Presentation of Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016

Presented by: Dante Mendoza

Description: A presentation of audited financial statements as required by Policy 8.5.1.b

Dante M.: has already been discussed with house finance, need to formalize financial statements. Auditor extending opinion on how accurate the information being present is

according to accounting principles and is not a reflection of society health. When this is approved, it will be posted outline.

Questions:

Bradley B.: was it 2016 the full year?

Dante M.: June 2015-May 2016 (fiscal year).

Amend agenda to include motion:

Dante M.: BIRT the GSS council approves GSS Financial Statements for the fiscal year running from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016 as presented by auditors Tompkins, Wozny, Miller and Co.

Mover: Dante M.

Second: Nick M.

Motivation: Dante M.: this is part of required process for approving financial statements.

Questions:

Yaseen M.: same auditor used before?

Dante M.: same one as used before. Firm experienced in dealing with this type (NGOs)

Vote: motion passed by unanimous consent.

6. CIF Motion – Koerner’s Alarm System

WHEREAS there is no alarm system in Koerner’s pub due to damaged wiring,
WHEREAS there have recently been 3 intruders in the GSC,
WHEREAS the project entitled "Koerner's Alarm System" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore
BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$3800 from the Capital Improvements Fund (budget line 10-785) for the installation of a wireless alarm system to monitor Koerner’s Pub.

Mover: Yaseen M.

Second: Christina W.

Motivation: should pay for alarm since they don’t have one.

Vote: motion passed by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourned due to lack of quorum at 9:45 p.m.

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~~7. Motion – GSS Endorsement of the Communities on the Move Declaration from the BC Healthy Living Alliance~~

~~Whereas the GSS UBCV supports the expansion of transit services to the UBC Vancouver campus and student subsidies for monthly transit passes.~~

~~BIRT the GSS endorses the Communities on the Move Declaration from the BC Healthy Living Alliance.~~

~~D. Discussion Period:~~

~~Emergency Spending Diagram by HF we've had a lot of emergency CIF projects recently and the current policies don't give us clear instructions on how to proceed. HF would like councillors to think about this & we want to use it as a basis for policy in the future. However, we shouldn't move on policy until after the referendum. HF voted to recommend this spending tree to council.~~

~~**MOVER:** _____ **SECONDER:** _____~~

~~E. GSS Updates~~

~~1. Executive Remarks~~

~~(3 minutes) _____~~

- ~~• President – Genevieve Cruz~~
- ~~• Vice President University & Academic Affairs – Mahshid Ghaffartehrani~~
- ~~• Vice President External Relations – Nicholas McGregor~~
- ~~• Vice President Students – Taranjit Singh Dhillon~~
- ~~• Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Dante Mendoza~~

~~2. Committee Reports~~

~~(3 minutes)~~

- ~~• Academic & External Affairs Committee – Dan Kehila~~
- ~~• Code and Policy Committee – Krish Maharaj~~
- ~~• Executive Oversight Committee – Dante Mendoza~~
- ~~• House Finance Committee – Shona Robinson~~

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- ~~Human Resources Committee – Gen Cruz~~
- ~~Services Committee – Matt Gynn~~
- ~~Elections Committee – Anna Ringsred~~
- ~~Strategic Planning – Natalie Marshall~~
- ~~Harassment and Discrimination – Katerina Othonos~~
- ~~Governance and Accountability Committee~~

~~3. Representative Reports~~

~~(3 minutes)~~

- ~~AMS Council – Bradley Balaton~~
- ~~Graduate Council – Resha Sabti~~
- ~~Senate – Miranda Huron and Jason Speidel~~
- ~~BOG – Veronica Knott and Aaron Bailey~~

N. Next Meeting

Thursday, March 23, 2017