

# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

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

1. The meeting will be called to order at 9:00 pm.

Quorum- 27 individual members with 3 proxies

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER:** David G.

**SECONDER:** Mahshid G.

Amendment: Nick M: Strike everything from the agenda except section D #1-7 (motion items) & limit presentations to 5 minutes vs. 10

**MOVER:** Nick M.

**Seconder:** Mahshid G.

Discussion: Nick M is removing everything except section D (Motion Items). Limiting presentations to 5 minutes as opposed to 10 minutes.

**Amendment passed by unanimous consent.**

Point of Information-

Amendment: Gen C: Add items to the agenda including the renewal of Harassment & Discrimination Committee & Renewal of Governance and Accountability Committee.

**MOVER:** Gen C.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L. – Proxy for Sarah

Discussion: Terms of Reference for both Harassment & Discrimination and Governance and Accountability be adopted to new agenda.

**Amendment passes by unanimous consent.**

Amendment: BIRT the GSS strikes the ad hoc committee with the following Terms of Reference.

**MOVER:** Yaseen M.

**SECONDER:** David G.

Point of Information:

Hannah M: The document (Terms of Reference) reads as September 2016.

Gen C: That is when the committee was formed

Speaker: The Terms of Reference were adopted back in September 2016, the Ad Hoc has only been around for a short period of time. Due to the fact that the AGM has ended and adjourned we are just reaffirming the same document from the motion.

**Amendment passes by unanimous consent.**

Amendment: Gen C: BIRT the GSS recognizes the following Honorary Members:

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## **Introductions**

### **2. ~~Approval of Minutes~~**

- a. ~~BIRT the following GSS Council meeting minutes be approved as presented.~~
- ~~December Council Meeting, January Council Meeting, February Council Meeting.~~
- b. ~~BIRT the following GSS Committee meeting minutes be approved as presented~~
- ~~Harassment and Discrimination Committee: January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.~~

### **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:~~

- ~~Graduate Program in Neuroscience~~

**MOVER: ~~SECONDER:~~** \_\_\_\_\_

### **B. ~~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~~

~~**Jennifer Bok** be unseated as the Departmental Representative for Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration (double check on department name)~~

~~**Sumeet Mutti** be unseated as the Chair of the Human Resources Committee.~~

5. ~~BIRT the following Seatings be approved:~~

~~**Anna Vozna** to be seated as the Department Representative for the Faculty of Education~~

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

~~**Nathan Kim** to be seated as the Departmental Representative for the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration.~~

6. ~~BIRT the following Seating's are approved:~~

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- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Executive Oversight Committee (1 Ordinary Member)~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the House Finance Committee (1 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated as chair of the House Finance Committee (1 Councillor, 1 Ordinary Member)~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Human Resources Committee. (2 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Members)~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Committee (1 Ordinary Member)~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee (2 Councillors)~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Strategic Planning Ad-hoc Committee (1 Ordinary Member)~~
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ be seated to the Elections Committee (2 Councillors, 3 Ordinary Members)~~

**D. Presentations and Motions** (Presentations are set at 5 minutes as amended by Nick M.)

## 1. White Paper on Supervisory Excellence:

BIRT- The GSS council ratify the White Paper titled: Supervisory Excellence, graduate student perspective to inform expertise decision making and support ongoing advocacy on behalf of students at UBC.

**Mover:** Natalie M.                    **Secunder:** Nick M.

Motivation:

Natalie M: The Supervisory Excellence Sub Committee- working very hard on the white paper since December gathering research on the supervisory standards research focused on supervisory standers for graduate students around the world.

Has gathered and organized the research to present position statement on the topic for last months council however needed a bit more time to finalize all the information gathered and polish final document as presented.

Discussion:

YASEEN M: Did we adopt the White Paper at last months' council? Adopted White Paper?

Natalie M: No that was just a briefing note- Executive summary.

Question:

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Yaseen M: What is your intention of this final position statement vs the one from last month?

Natalie M: The position statement that was approved last month will be added to the new white paper excellence document.

**Vote: amendment passed by unanimous consent.**

**Motion Carries.**

## 2. GSS Graduate Student Satisfactory Survey

BIRT the GSS Council approved the 2017 version of “The Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey” to be distributed to all graduate students and assessed by the Taskforce on conducting the Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey, in collaboration with the Student Experience Evaluation and Research team.

**Mover:** Gen C.

**Second:** Mackenzie L.

Motivation: Gen C: Sent survey to the Council however we had more meetings following the email that was sent out and we would like to go over the amendments of the survey. Another version was sent out today (March 23<sup>rd</sup>). Majority of amendments stemmed from Lisa Bruner, a fellow graduate student, regarding metrics and suggestions.

Question added from Jasleen- Which campus are students located on?

Amendments from Academic and External Affairs Committee- Which country did you complete your undergraduate degree? Do you have plans for immigrating to Canada? Are you interested in immigrating to Canada/ bringing your spouse and/or common law partner? AMS- Questions were based on certain plans after high school, ours relates to grads i.e. What do you plan to do after graduation?

Responses: Most Career Services provided at UBC designed for working in Canada but there are people who want to work outside of Canada.

Child Care Services Question- Both Quantitative and Qualitative

More questions on student amenities- Meeting with Academic Supervisor/Advisor- changed options- once a month, more than once a month, year, other- is the frequency helpful?

Student Finances- changed choices based on ACES feedback:

Advocating for Grad Students- Changed it to Verbs- Increased specifics.

Development on Campus- Professional.

Changed the term ‘community engagement’

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Satisfaction level.

Question from *Jennifer Deboer* in the survey- What events have been useful for Grad Students? Will these events help with future Execs next year?

Wellbeing Portion- Made it non-optional- examples; stress due to supervisor issues, preparation for life after graduation, personal life, etc.

Awareness of Campus Services- councillor services.

Questions about Microaggression: hopefully it compliments data from Harassment & Discrimination Committee.

Amber Shilling; helped with questions on courses for Indigenous Learners- optional.

Environmental Sustainability awareness.

Motion: Can we consider this adopted version with amendments made, 2017 amended version (Draft 3) and apply them.

**Mover:** Gen C.                    **Second:** Nathaniel L.

Amend the 2017 amended version, Draft 3.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

BIRT GSS Approved Amended 2017 version.

Discussion:

Question:

YASEEN M: Have questions been removed from the previous survey? A lot of the questions are open ended so it could skew the data.

KATERINA O: SEER can provide Administrative Data- Ex: International / Domestic Student- we want to revise what we have so we can exercise the survey

Gen C: Ideally the survey would be distributed in April so there is more space to consider it however we are pushing this survey (influenced by SEER). If the amendments are minimal we can approve it and have it sent out during a time frame that matches up with the previous survey distribute so data is aligned.

Yaseen M: Changes in questions regarding Race?

Gen C: Documents used to be categorical (choosing a race, etc.) but now it is blank to give people the opportunity to self identify. Examples of this include specific insinuations where we asked students about microaggression and feeling stressed which many believed it had something to do with their culture (culture being an influence on this

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stress). Hopefully this is something we can improve on with our programing. Example: Muslim students talking to them about microaggression feelings came out because they are Muslim'. We want that information to be provided if relevant, that is why the race is included but option to self identity if also still in the survey. The survey is being rushed because we are trying to push the survey to complete it before finals & summer begin. Amendments come from the consultation after sending it out to council, meeting with both ACEX and the meeting with the Taskforce. There was an opportunity to bring this up previously, I hope council is aware of this.

YASEEN M: Motion to Table until the next meeting.

**Mover:** Yaseen M.

**Secunder:** No one.

**Motion fails.**

BIRT- The GSS council approved the amended 2017 satisfaction survey to be distributed to all grad students and assessed by the task force conducting the survey in collaboration with research team.

**Vote: amendment passed by unanimous consent.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **3. GSS Response to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of Policy 131 (Sexual Assault and other Sexual Misconduct)**

WHEREAS the GSS Taskforce is responding to the Sexual Assault Policy, a written submission for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of Policy 131- 'Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct'

WHEREAS the UBC Policy Committee needs to submit a new draft to the University Board of Governors by April 5, 2017

BIRT the GSS Council approves the submission to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of Policy 131- "Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct", and forward the document to the policy committee in time for the creation of the final draft.

**Mover:** Mackenzie L.

**Secunder:** Krish M.

Motivation:

Gen C: Second draft of the sexual assault policy where the consultation period ended on March 15<sup>th</sup>. It is currently late, but we are the only student group with one representative from both the Sexual Assault Policy & Steering Committee. I can get an overview on what is happening in both committees.

Adapted simplified version is now being weighed with other comments being made in the policy.

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Task Force- Open Call to students to be a part of this task force. Tamara has been working very hard and what we have are specific recommendations and questions for each item in the policy. Only group to do this and it is helpful for both sexual assault policy and steering committee and it is also aiding the Action Plan. Comments fit more action plan than policy.

Specific Recommendations & Questions for the Policy for each item in the policy. Only group to do this and we are not just responding to policy- it is very helpful because it doesn't only respond to policy but also provides an Action Plan- being put together by the steering committee.

Comments received in the policy are actual comments that are for the action plan vs the policy. Meeting call out for 3:00pm- Responding to Procedure Document sent out last Friday. (cc comments & question on procedure document). Amendment proposed included in the draft.

Amendments to Draft- What furthers defines or qualifies of support?

Discussion:

Responses to new Draft

Point of Information- Nick: When is this due by?

Gen C: It was due on the 15<sup>th</sup> but I will send it tonight to be approved, it is coming.

Yaseen M: Regarding the position statement, nice language about resolution and process, justice, right of evidence. Balance of Probability threshold?

Gen C: The Position Statement is on the Equity and Inclusion website and was considered in the first draft of The Policy – I could put fourth the policy to advocate in the committee- a lot of the languages have changed after consults with legal council. i.e.- RCMP, Expert Panel – lots of committees at work. If you feel there should be a stronger emphasis on language you could make a motion to move me to do so but I can't specifically trace what happened to that language. Example: Language of Probably was so emphasized in first draft but not so much in this one. (The emphasis on language of balance of probabilities has been removed from the policy)

Natalie M: Regarding Balance of Probabilities, what has this been replaced with?

Gen C: Focusing on people who have do checks and balances throughout the process, ex: Director of Investigations- Weighs evidence. Balance of Probabilities: Largely based on the evidence being presented- emphasizes that this is not equal to a criminal process. Trying to uphold campus safety and not rely on which student is right and wrong. Largely reliant on evidence presented in each case, largely keeping the interest of students. Less

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weight of balance on probability so it keeps the students interests at the forefront- vs a criminal investigation.

NATALIE M: Just to clarify, decisions need to be made based on certain criteria? So, weather or not it's criminal I don't think should have an impact on the outcome. To be honest if that is not up to my satisfaction, I would ask for a change. I don't think weather or not it is criminal should have an impact. We should maintain Checks and Balances.

Gen C: Broken down in Policy: Rather than looking just at Balance of Probability it will look at Jurisdiction- is this an Authority? *Balance of Probability is no longer a scale of did you commit this or not?* More so if you fit into this investigating process – are the people involved members of the UBC community.

Quality of Report- *Does the report present specific details? Broken down into Stages, does it qualify as alternative justice procedure? That both parties consent to. Process from RCMP triggered by report. Does it give the respondent a fair chance to respond?*

Language was changed due to the RCMP as they want to collaborate with UBC on processes. *Does it qualify as an alternative justice procedure? Is it something both parties consent to? Who is deciding on the evidence presented? RCMP Process triggered?* Balance of Probability not as prominent in this draft because it outlines different stages of the investigation. Balance of Probability isn't 'did you do this or not?' It leans more towards: *Do you fit into this investigation/ meet certain criteria, are you in the jurisdiction, are the people involved a part of the UBC community.* Emphasis on what qualifies.

TOBIAS F: Victims & Survivors: Standard of Quality. Standards need to be clear determining specific cases. Taking these considerations out is wise to eliminate to people working on these cases no matter who it is. Does not need to be clear what kind of standard of quality- taking these considerations out it is not wise to eliminate the balance of probability.

TAMARA D: Working on Task Force: A lot of language we tried to address and expand. Specifically- dynamics of power in identity both as a survivor or perpetrator of sexual violence. Power Dynamics? Trauma Informed Approach- expanded on throughout both the policy, strategy, and processes document for working with survivors. Tried to add safeguards, wanting to give survivors access to safe guard (having support vs nebular version of offering of support- hence more likely to take advantage of access to support and power as a survivor of sexual assault). Taskforce members came from a variety of different ethnic, gender, and socio orientation. However, we didn't use this language but used these considerations during the approach to make it as fair as possible regarding the survivor and perpetrator.

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Krish N: Standard of proof and regulation procedure. Whether the university wants to change procedures or not, the standard of care required will - no need to worry that much about it because you can't really change it.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

BIRT the GSS council approves the second submission of the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft policy – Policy 101 moving forward the document towards moving toward the final draft.

**Vote: amendment passed by unanimous consent.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **4. The GSS elections were conducted from March 6-10 with 11.6% graduate student turnout;**

WHEREAS the election results were the following: President: Taran Dhillon (87.4%); VP University and Academic Affairs: Teilhard Paradela (47%), Ashenafi Alemu (42.9%); VP External Relations: Hanna Murray (54.3%) Phillip Kimani Karangu (36.1%); VP Students: Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi (52.9%), Keskin Owusu Poku (41%); Senate (2 seats): Francisco Gallegos (39.7%) and Miranda Huron (54.4%);

BIRT that the GSS ratify these results and accept the following members as GSS Executives: Taran Dhillon as President, Teilhard Paradela as VP University and Academic Affairs, Hanna Murray as VP External Relations, Arezoo Alemzedeg Mehrizi as VP Students; and Francisco Gallegos and Miranda Huron as GSS Senators; for term of May 2017- April 2018.

**Mover:** Nick M.

**Second:** Bradly B.

Discussion:

Mackenzie L: Requests to change the name from GSS Senators to *Faculty of Graduate and Post Graduate Senators*

**Mover:** Mackenzie L.

**Second:** Yaseen M.

Amendment– striking 'GSS Senators' to ***Faculty of Graduate and Post Graduate Senators***

**Vote: amendment passed by unanimous consent.**

**Motion to ratify carries.**

#### **5. Governance and Accountability Renewal**

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BIRT the GSS strikes an Adhoc. committee with the following terms as reference.

**MOVER:** Yaseen M.

**SECONDER:** David G.

Motivation:

Yaseen M: A lot of hard work has been put into this committee and we would like to have these two committees seated. (Governance and Accountability & Harassment and Discrimination)

Discussion:

David G: Why is it still an Adhoc committee?

Abdul: If we make it a permanent committee we “amend code”.

Tobias F: Due to the Bylaws we keep it as Adhoc committee.

**Vote: amendment passed by unanimous consent.**

**Motion Carries.**

## 6. Renewal of H & D Committee

BIRT Harassment and Discrimination renewed their status as an ad hoc committee, same terms of reference as before.

**MOVER:** Yaseen M.    **SECONDER:** Keskin O.

Motivation:

Katerina O: More work to do on reports, we would love the chance to have more time to get more of our work complete and polished.

Discussion:

Motion to Amend: Nathan L.

Amendment:

BIRT the name of the Harassment & Discrimination committee name be changed to the ANTI - Harassment & Discrimination committee.

**Mover:** Nathaniel L.

**Secunder:** Tei P.

Motivation: It doesn't sound right as it is “Harassment & Discrimination”

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Tobias F: It used to be called “The GSS Ad Hoc committee ON Harassment & Discrimination” maybe we could go back to avoid confusion?

Keskine O: The framing of the name reflects the committee. The Anti- tells people a better story about what the committee is all about.

Yaseen M: Copy & Paste Old term of Reference?

Natalie M: Agree with the sentiment with the proposed change. Unusual for a committee to reflect a stance on something- obviously, we are all against H & D- I would disagree with the name ANTI -if we are concerned the original name would be better as it depicts the study of this issue.

**Motion to amend fails to meet majority to pass- amendment is defeated.**

**Motion to reaffirm same terms of reference**

Yaseen M: Motion to amend

**Amendment:** Populate the two Adhoc Committees- Appoint Members now.

## **7. Appointment of five Councillors and two Ordinary Members to the Harassment & Discrimination Committee:**

*Nominations:*

Gen C:Harassment and Discrimination: Lauren, Theresa, Tamara D. (Ordinary Members)

Katerina & Jasleen (Councillors to be seated to Harassment and Discrimination Committee).

Motion to appoint those members:

**Mover:** Nick M.

**Second:** Mahshid G.

**Vote:** amendment passed by unanimous consent.

**Motion carries.**

## **8. Motion to appoint Chair to Harassment & Discrimination.**

*Nominations:*

Mackenzie L: Nominates Katerina

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**Mover:** Nick M.

**Second:** Mackenzie L.

**Motion Carries: Katerina is Chair.**

## **9. Governance & Accountability Committee Nominations:**

*Nominations:*

Katerina O: Nominates Natalie M.

Natalie M: *Accepts.*

Mackenzie L: Nominates Yaseen M.

Yaseen M: *Accepts*

Natalie M: Nominates Katerina O.

Katerina O: *Accepts*

Katerina O: Nominates Mackenzie L.

Mackenzie L: *Accepts.*

Mackenzie L: Nominates Tobias F. as ordinary member

Tobias F: *Accepts.*

Natalie: Nominates Sneha S. as ordinary member

Sneha S: *Accepts*

Following members to be seated in Governance & Accountability Committee.

**MOVER:** Yaseen M.

**Second:** Nathaniel L.

**Motion Carries**

## **10. Nominations for Chair of Governance & Accountability Committee**

Katerina O: Nominates Natalie

Natalie M: Accepts Chair position of Governance and Accountability.

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**Mover-** Nathaniel L.

**Seconders:** Katerina O.

Natalie is now Chair of Governance and Accountability Committee.

**Motion carries**

## 11. Honorary Members

BIRT- Motion for GSS-Recognizes following members as Honorary Members of the Graduate Student Society 2017: Tobias Friedel, James Lawson, Krish Maharaj, Shona Robinson, and Harry Li.

**Mover:** Gen C.

**Seconders:** Bradly B.

Question:

Yaseen M: Do we know that each of these members has served on council for two years?

Gen C: You can serve on council but you don't necessarily have to be a councillor- if you served as a councillor through committees or a representative that qualifies as an honorary membership.

Yaseen M: Second question, more motivation / information on James Lawson.

Gen C: James Lawson is the current President of GRASSPODS- was seated February 2015.

**Vote: amendment passed by unanimous consent.**

**Motion is adopted- welcome life long members of the GSS.**

Meeting Adjourned.

**Mover:** Natalie M

**Seconders:** Keskin O.

**Meeting is adjourned at 9:40pm.**

~~**E. Discussion Period:**~~

~~To be updated-~~

~~**MOVER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECONDER:** \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~**E. GSS Updates**~~

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## **1. Executive Remarks**

*(3 minutes)*

- President — Genevieve Cruz
- Vice-President University & Academic Affairs — Mahshid Ghaffartehrani
- Vice-President External Relations — Nicholas McGregor
- Vice-President Students — Taran 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 — Jennifer Campbell
- Human Resources Committee — Genevieve 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, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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## **Emergency Spending Diagram:**

~~Please see attached for council discussion (we ran out of time last council). The rationale is that 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. (you can put this blurb into the agenda if you want).~~