

# GSS Council Meeting Agenda

October 19, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30 pm

## A. Attendance

1. Present: Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Dupuis, Claire Grégoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Amanda Pizio (proxy for Krish Maharaj), Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Theresa Pauly, Megan Russell, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu, Emily Leischner, Francisco Gallegos, Jeanie Malone, Eric Ottenbacher, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi, Darren Touch, Joella Allen, Anna Ringsred, Sarah-Nelle Jackson, Yangfan Zhang, Taran Dhillon, David Gill, Shona Robinson, Elham Abouei.
2. Regrets: Zoe Lam, Heather MacKay, Lisa Zhu.
3. Absent: Addyson Frattura-Kampschrer, Arjun Banghela, Balsher Singh Sidhu, Emily Murphy, Emma Watson, Kevin Doering, Nayid Contreas, Rachele Benjamin, Souvik Ray, Zeynab Nosrati.
4. Quorum: 14 Councillors

## B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be called to order at 5:32 pm.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: John D SECONDER: Nathaniel L

For (22): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Sarah Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

## C. Introductions

### a. Matter #1 Presentation by Rabia Mir, The Acadia Park Residents Association.

- i. **Group responsible:** Rabia Mir, The Acadia Park Residents Association
- ii. **Presentation description:** The Acadia Park Residents Association will be presenting on issues affecting them and their families. They will seek advice and support from the GSS on the their conflict with the neighbouring fraternity houses
- iii. **Presentation time:** 10 minutes

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iv. **Proposed objective:** seek advice and support from the GSS on the their conflict with the neighbouring fraternity houses

Presenter: Requesting advocacy support for the residents, Fraternity as per the university to follow the rules, and to set up a mechanism in case of conflict, and

- Adopt the bylaws to manage the noise levels.
- Work with to come up with a mediation mechanism

Diverse community of 600 students

No noise bylaws on UBC endowment lands, so the RCMP cannot do anything about it. Also, no damage bylaws, and even peeing on the properties.

We've had conversations with univ, AMS, University NA, Fraternity, The committee has only met once, and there's no mechanism to meet again. The fraternity follows what all the residents follow, but nothing has happened since then, and we are running out of options.

Peter M: has your sub-committee gone over how the dorms work in terms of the noise level?

Presenter: the fraternity does not belong to the campus police's jurisdiction. It feels like it needs to be a broader issue.

Discussion:

Ty: We've been discussing possible solutions and we'll be presenting it to AcEx and hopefully be discussed in the council. I welcome everyone to send me questions and matters you'd like to be added.

Presenter: any questions? Or you can shoot me an email at [rabia@gmail.ca](mailto:rabia@gmail.ca)

David G: has acadia had conversations with Fraternity?

Could we have clarifications on the conversations with the Fratt?

Speaker: I would like to direct to the presentation pages; each frat has their own student bodies so the only way to talk is in the council

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Atefeh: you're not part of the GSS community?

Spe: yes, I am a grad student, but not a part of the council

## **b. Matter #2 Presentation by Danielle Barkley, PhD. on the services offered by CSIC to graduate students :**

- i. **Group responsible:** Danielle Barkley PhD, Educator, Career & Professional Development, UBC Centre for Student Involvement and Careers (CSIC)
- ii. **Presentation description:** Introduction about her role, and what services does the CSIC offers to graduate students
- iii. **Presentation time:** 5 minutes

Questions:

Arezoo M: Do you have any graduate specific job fairs?

Speaker: We can explore the idea of doing one for grad students. Ask me and other staff members of the CSIS office.

Arezoo: Which chanel?

Speaker: Graduate path to success, and our main website.

Alyssa: most of these are in midday, any plans to offer these somewhere else and in other times?

Speaker: there are 4:30-6pm, and we have off site locations, and we're open to suggestions.

Abia: any career coaching for CV's? Who are the advisors?

Speaker: Yes, there are from a counsellor background, trained HR individuals, so either from industry or the academic background

## **D. Approval of Minutes**

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
  - a. *June 2017, September 2017*
2. Committee minutes for approval:
  - a. *Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee:* August 10, August 24, September 14, September 28, 2017.
  - b. *Services Committee Meeting:* September 11, 2017, September 29, 2017
  - c. *G&A Adhoc Committee Meeting:* October 11, 2017
  - d. *H&D Adhoc Committee Meeting:* September 6, 2017, October 4, 2017

BIRT, the council approves as listed.

Mover: Sebastien R.      Second: Katerina O.

For (13): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Claire Gregoire, Sarah Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Sebastien Rettie, Anna Vozna

Abstained: Nathaniel Lim

Motion passed.

## 1. Temporary Adoption of Rules of Order in Council

WHEREAS there currently is no time limit in the Bylaws or Policy Manual, for “Question Time” and “Debate Time” for business items “Matters to Note” and “Matters for Decision” respectively,

WHEREAS Bylaw 4.1.1 provides that the Society’s meetings shall adopt basic principles of Canadian parliamentary procedure and the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order as its Rules of Order,

WHEREAS Robert’s Rules of Order does not provide a time limit to debate a motion,

WHEREAS Robert’s Rules of Order provides that a member may speak for no longer than ten minutes on a matter (Section 43, Pages 387-388: “Maximum Time for Each Speech”),

WHEREAS Robert’s Rules of Order provides that a member may only speak twice on a matter, excluding asking a question, making a brief suggestion, or making a secondary motion (Section 43, Pages 388-390: “Number of Speeches on the Same Question per Member per Day”),

WHEREAS Council strives to have efficient council meetings (Strategic Plan 3.1 [A]),

WHEREAS the default provisions in Robert’s Rules of Order on these items do not suit the need of GSS Council,

WHEREAS Robert’s Rules of Order provides the mechanism for adopting Special Rules of Order, which precedes the conventions and rules in Robert’s Rules of Order (Section 2, Pages 15-17 “Rules of Order”),

WHEREAS Bylaw 13.3.2 provides Council the mechanism to temporarily amend any policy or procedure for a period not exceeding 30 days by special resolution in Council,

WHEREAS Code and Policy Committee has received verbal request to consider the drafting of Special Rules of Order for Council,

WHEREAS Policy Manual 8.4.1 [G] provides that Code and Policy Committee shall perform other duties related to the Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Manual as directed by Council

**BIRT in addition to the Rules of Order in Bylaw 4.1.1, Council shall temporarily adopt the following Special Rules of Order for the October Council Meeting dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, wherein the Special Rules shall expire upon adjournment:**

- A. "Question Time" and "Debate Time" for "Matters to Note" and "Matter for Decision" shall last no more than 30 minutes respectively. Changes to the time limit shall be made by a motion to *Extend or Limit Debate*, as provided in Robert's Rules of Order.
- B. An attending member with right of voice and has obtained the floor shall ask no more than 2 questions, and will be given no more than 3 minutes speaking time. This does not include making a secondary motion. As with provision A, the limits may be altered by a motion to *Extend or Limit Debate*.
  - a. Follow-up questions or remarks shall not be made when a member has not obtained the floor, as indicated by the Speaker's List
- C. All questions in "Question Time" for "Matters to Note" can only be answered by the Presenter(s).
- D. All questions in "Debate Time" for "Matters for Decision" can be answered by the individual explicitly indicated in the question. If no such persons are indicated, the Presenter shall answer the question.

**BIFRT Council orders and empowers Code and Policy Committee to draft and recommend the final version of the Special Rules of Order of Council for adoption in Council by the December Council Meeting, 2017.**

Mover: Nathaniel Lim  
Speaker: discussions?

Secunder: Ty

Alyssa: Efficient meetings are important, but is it a good idea to put a strict time limit?  
It seems unwieldy to set a limit to a debate when we have to talk it out.  
Justifications?

Nathaniel: I wholeheartedly agree, but it would take a really long time to come to an end.  
I am trying to hear as many people's voices as possible.  
We can provide a revision to override this motion in the rules.

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David G: I second this debate, we got a lot of the stuff done when we used to have time limit before.

Speaker: To summarize, the points will be effective immediately but not after the meeting.

Vote on the motions.

For (13): Elham Abouei, Francisco Gallegos, Nandinee Haq, Sarah Jackson, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Krish Maharaj, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Lisa Zhu

Against (1): Bradley Balaton

Abstained: Alyssa Kirlin

Motion passed.

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## 2. Temporary Amendment to the Policy Manual

WHEREAS Policy Manual 7.3.4 provides that all standing committee memberships shall be reseated at the October Council Meeting,

WHEREAS Bylaw 9.1 provides that the Executive Committee is a standing committee,

WHEREAS Policy Manual 8.2.1 [A, B] provides the membership of the Executive Committee,

WHEREAS Bylaw 8.5.2 [D.III] provides that the President shall chair the Executive Committee,

WHEREAS Bylaw 13.3.1 provides that the Policy Manual shall be binding upon the Society, subject only to the Constitution and Bylaws,

WHEREAS Policy Manual 1.1.2 provides that the Bylaws shall prevail in the event that a policy in the Policy Manual is in conflict,

WHEREAS Policy Manual 7.3.4 is conflicting with Policy Manual 8.2.1 [A, B] and Bylaw 8.5.2 [D.III],

WHEREAS Bylaw 13.3.2 provides Council the mechanism to temporarily amend any policy or procedure for a period not exceeding 30 days by special resolution in Council,

WHEREAS Policy Manual 8.4.1 [G] provides that Code and Policy Committee shall perform other duties related to the Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Manual as directed by Council,

**BIRT Policy Manual 7.3.4 shall be temporarily amended to the following, and shall be valid up till 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017:**

“7.3.4: Excluding the Executive Committee, all standing committee memberships shall be reseated at the October Council meeting.”

**BIFRT Council orders and empowers Code and Policy Committee to draft and recommend the appropriate amendments for Policy Manual 7.3.4 for adoption in Council during the November Council Meeting, 2017.**

For (15): Elham Abouei, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Krish Maharaj, Hanna Murray, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Christina Wiesmann

Motion passed.

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

#### b. Questions?

### 2. Matters for Decision

#### a. **Seatings**

##### **i. Presentation to Motivate Committee Seatings:**

- i. *Group responsible:* Natalie M. & GSS Committee Chairs, Governance &

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## Accountability Ad Hoc Committee

- ii. *Presentation time:* 20 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* We provide a quick description of each standing GSS committee, including recent accomplishments and possible future endeavours, in order to provide information about what each committee does. GSS Policy 6.1.3 says that “Each Councillor shall endeavour to join at least one Committee of Council and participate in its activities.”
- iv. *Proposed objective:* Inform all present on what GSS committees do to encourage ordinary members and all Councillors to nominate themselves to sit on at least one GSS committee.
- v. *Relevant materials:* Presentation file: <http://bit.ly/2yqzok9> and attached with Council materials as ‘GSS Committee Highlights.pdf’

## Quesitons:

Taran D: I will add the updates to make sure they are there in the minutes.

Natalie: For the sake of meeting efficiencies please send the updates by Monday afternoon, and make sure you send them to be added to the agenda.

Speaker: I will not put anything after the deadline, I will not add to the agenda. Please don't abuse Taran.

## 1. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

### a. **Matter #2 Presentation: ABCS Presentation and Lobby Days Update.**

- i. *Group responsible:* Caitlin McCutchen, Hanna Murray
- ii. *Presentation description:* Introduce ABCS and its goals, and provide updates on lobbying activities.
- iii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes

ABCS allows the universities to talk to the provincial government; libraries, and instructional buildings. Our tenancy rights, funding for, We meet with gov officials, and we do lobby days in Victoria, 3-6 students and meet with gov't officials about what they would like to put forward.

## Questions:

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Krish M: what are those five societies?

Presenter: GSS, UBCO, Kwantlen, langara, and Capilano. Due to political climate of universities, not all orgs are able to join

David: any distinctive policy changes adopted by govt?

Presenter: all post secondary institutions need to have sexual assault prevention support.

## ii. New Councillors

**BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:**

Theresa Pauly to be seated as Departmental Representative for Department of Psychology .

Mohammad Chaudhry to be seated as Departmental Representative for Department of Chemistry.

John Dupuis to be seated as Departmental Representative for Department of Food Science

Megan Russell to be seated as Departmental Representative for Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences \_\_\_\_\_.

Eric Ottenbacher to be seated as Departmental Representative for Department of Central, Eastern and Northern European Studies \_\_\_\_\_.

Nayid Contreas to be seated as Departmental Representative for Department of French, Hispanic & Italian Studies

Nicole So to be seated as Departmental Representative for Public Policy and Global Affairs Program.

Mover: Christina W. seconder: Bradley B.

For (19): Elham Abouei, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Sarah Jackson, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Krish Maharaj, Hanna

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Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskiné Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

### iii. Committee Seatings

*All GSS Councillors are expected to sit on at least one committee.*

Committees	Meeting Times
<p><b>ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE</b> The Academic and External Committee endeavours to promote the interests of graduate students within the University community and the society at large. The committee addresses academic matters, financial concerns and the political needs of graduate students.</p>	
<p><b>CODE AND POLICY COMMITTEE</b> The Code and Policy Committee is responsible for reviewing the GSS Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Manual. It collaborates with all other GSS committees, departments, and council to keep the bylaws and policies current. Up-to-date bylaws and policies reflect the will of the society and help the GSS run effectively. The Committee has just finished conducting a major revision of the Society bylaws, and are now in the process of updating the policy manual.</p>	Currently meets once a month. Regular schedule TBD
<p><b>ELECTIONS COMMITTEE</b> The Elections Committee is accountable for conducting annual Society elections.</p>	
<p><b>EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE</b> The Executive Oversight Committee is responsible for providing constructive performance review of elected GSS executive members, and for facilitating resolution of concerns about the functioning of the elected executive.</p>	Currently no meetings scheduled
<p><b>GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The Governance &amp; Accountability ad hoc Committee ensures that the GSS as an organization is as effective as possible by reviewing the GSS governance structure, and helps the Society support UBC grad students by creating accountability to the vision and goals within the GSS Strategic Plan. This year, our main goals are (1) to provide recommendations to restructure the GSS as an organization, and (2) to help all GSS committees create and accomplish goals aligned with the Strategic Plan.</p>	Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 pm
<p><b>GSS/AMS REFERENDUM AD HOC COMMITTEE</b></p>	Every 2nd

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<p>The GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee conducts a needs assessment on the AMS services that graduate students currently use, drafts proposals for how to proceed as a Society, and prepares for a related 2018 referendum.</p>	<p>Wednesday evening from 6-10 pm during the school year</p>
<p><b>HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AD HOC COMMITTEE</b>          The Harassment and Discrimination ad hoc committee has been struck to address the issue of harassment and discrimination which covers all aspects of graduate student life at UBC, including work as a Teaching Assistants, student-supervisor relationships, and peer-to-peer interactions, etc.          The committee conducts research about student experiences not only across Canada, but also worldwide. The findings will be used to develop a code of conduct.</p>	<p>First Wednesday of each month, 3-8pm (we have long working meetings at the moment)</p>
<p><b>HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>          The House Finance Committee works to ensure the financial stability and accountability of all Society operations. It is accountable for organizing the annual audit, preparing and monitoring the budget, and the creation of the annual business plan. In addition to all matters financial, the House Finance Committee is also responsible for overseeing the use of the physical facilities and equipment of the Graduate Student Centre, dealing with complaints and suggestions, and making recommendations to Council regarding the House and Rules, and the Venue Rental Policy.</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p><b>HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>          The Human Resources Committee evaluates and reviews all coordinators and student staff, and provides regular reviews for the employee handbook of the Society. It is their responsibility to ensure all staffing needs are met.</p>	<p>Every Second Monday 5:30 PM</p>
<p><b>SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>          The Services Committee aims to provide diverse services to the UBC graduate student community through direct, face-to-face communication and interaction. Its main function is to plan programming and events that enhance the campus and community experience of UBC graduate students and their families.</p>	<p>Biweekly schedule alternating between Fridays at 4:30-6pm and Wednesdays at 5-6:30pm</p>

**BIRT the following Seatings be approved:**

## Graduate Council Representatives:

Yangfan Zhang, Darren Touch, Lily E Takeuchi, Balsher, Eric Frieling to be seated as Graduate Council Representatives. (5 needed).

Amanda P: I would like to move to vote on the Grad Council reps so they are seated.  
Seconder: Nathaniel L.

Motion passed because there are no objections.

Eric Frieling to be seated as Graduate Council Head Representative. (1 needed).

**WHEREAS the GSS Policy Manual 7.3.6 states that (Standing committees: AcEx, CPC, HF, HR, S, EOC) "All standing committee memberships shall be re-seated at the October Council meeting"**

BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

## Standing Committees:

Jasmine Li-Brubacher, Rory Long, Yahya Mohammadzadeh to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

Atefeh Mohammad Vali Samani, Emily Murphy, Heather Mackay, Nicole So, Mohammad Chaudhry to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

Yahya Mohammadzadeh to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as the Chair. (1 needed).

Evan Trofimchuk to the Code and Policy Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

Nathaniel Lim, Darren Touch, Yangfan Zhang to the Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

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Nathaniel Lim to the Code and Policy Committee as the chair. (1 needed).

Jennifer Campbell, David Sasse to the House Finance Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

Lisa Zhu, Nathaniel Lim, Christina Wiesmenn, Nicole So to the House Finance Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

Jennifer Campbell to the House Finance Committee as the chair. (1 needed).

Arif Arif to the Human Resources Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

Peter Musser, Sebastien Retti, Atefeh Salmani to the Human Resources Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

Arif Arif to the Human Resources Committee as the chair. (1 needed).

Matthew Gynn, Evan Trofimchuk, Jessica Li to the Services Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

John D, David Gill, Eric Frieling to the Services Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

Matthew Gynn to the Services Committee as a Chair. (1 needed).

Natalie Marshall, Jennifer Campbell to the Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

Alyssa Kirilin to the Executive Oversight Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

Anna Ringsred to the Elections Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

Katerina Othonos, David Gill to the Elections Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

Anna Ringsred to the Elections Committee as a Chair (1 needed).

## Ad-Hoc Committees:

~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an AMS Council Representative. (2 needed).~~

~~Soheila Zarei to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as a Health & Dental Plan Committee Representative. (1 needed).~~

Natalie Marshall, Amanda Pizio to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

Negar Khodarahmi, Jasmine Li-Brubacher to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad

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Hoc Committee as an ordinary member. (2 needed).

Theresa Pauly to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

Natalie Marshall as Chair of the Governance & Accountability Ad Hoc Committee.

## **AMS-GSS Committees:**

Eric Ottenbacher to be seated as the AMS Council Representative (1 needed)

Soheila Zarei to the Health & Dental Plan Committee as a GSS Representative. (1 needed).

## **Faculty of Science Council :**

Yangfan Zhang, Sebastien Rettie, Elham Aboouei to the Faculty of Science Council as a GSS Representative (3 needed, ordinary member or Councillor, in the Faculty of Science).

For (20): Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Krish Maharaj, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Lisa Zhu

## **Motion Passed.**

### **b. Election of GSS Senator :**

WHEREAS one of the two graduate student members of the Senate representing Faculty of Graduate studies, Miranda Huron resigned in July 2017. These two student senators form part of the 18 student representatives in the Vancouver Senate of The University of British Columbia

WHEREAS these two student senators are the voice for graduate students on Vancouver Senate of The University of British Columbia. The UBC Senate is the highest governing body responsible for all academic matters, including admissions, awards and

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scholarships, approval of new courses and programs, examination policies, and curriculum changes. All matters dealt with in senate affects all students at UBC

WHEREAS the GSS currently has no procedure in its Bylaws or the Policy manual to re-elect the GSS senator if left vacant due to resignation by the graduate student senator

WHEREAS The UBC senate rules and procedures (Part 3, l15.a) state that If a vacancy cannot be filled by the manner specified in Section 14 due to lack of candidates, or if the position is as a student senator, it shall be filled:

a. In the case of student senators, by resolution of the Student Council of the Alma Mater Society except for the education student senator, in which case by election.

WHEREAS The GSS follows the following election process for re-electing graduate student senator: Notice for self-nominations was put out in the GSS newsletter two weeks before October GSS council and election at GSS october council will be held to be voted on by present GSS councillors

WHEREAS the AMS in its October 11,2017 council meeting approved the GSS election process for the re-electing the graduate student senator

WHEREAS the following Motion was approved in AMS Council Meeting held on Oct 11,2017

*Whereas the GSS election process for replacing their senator is:  
-Notice put out in the GSS newsletter 2 weeks before GSS council.  
-Election at GSS council voted on by GSS councillors  
-Senator nominee will be brought back to AMS council for approval  
Be it resolved that the AMS approve the GSS election process for the graduate student senator*

BIRT the GSS appoints Ashenafi Alemu, Amber Shilling, Erik Frieling, Yangfan Zhang, Darren Touch, as the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral studies Senator

MOVER: Taran Dhillon

SECONDER: Keskine Owusu Poku

Speaker: each candidate goes for 3 minutes in an alphabetical order, and then question period for 10 min then vote

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Amber Shieling; 4<sup>th</sup> year student in Higher Ed., Musqueam people, served as rep for presidential search hiring committee, HR Chair, indigenous commissioner, familiar with post-secondary process and protocols as a student and an instructor. Added benefit of balance of representatives as my role as a women and indigenous person. The curriculum committee and committee for student disciplines.

Ashenafi: VP academic position last year, work with GrasPods, Academic supervision excellence, Sexual assault prevention and intervention. (previously active bystander), Graduate research assistant, (ed studies). Much positioned to be the senator; student services, internationalization of studies, ready and excited to be a voice for students. Negotiate the space and fill the gap.

Darren: Masters of Public policy and global affairs. Policy can shape people's lives and academic affairs. UBC continues to grow, so it's impt our voices are represented to the govt. Committed to interacted with you. Provide innovative ways to communicate, communication and cooperation is the key to represent a strong voice in dealing with those of higher up.

Erik: also was an undergrad at UBC, I know how it operates from undergrad and here.

Yangfan: I believe it's important to participate as a student from overseas. I've travelled to Europe and serving as a grad rep.

Questions for the candidates:

Francisco: for each of the candidates, what would be your choices of committees and the top priority for the committees?

Yangfan: seat in the CPC committee; rules to make things work well, impt to stand up and correct them for the better.

Erik: I had a look through the committees and drawn to academic policies regarding transferring students.

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Darren: academic policy, and academic needs committee; to make sure there's enough space for the students

Ashenafi: already member of Sexual Assault Int and prevention so I would like to join academic policy and the new curriculum policy at GSS

Amber: Curriculum committee; incorporating indigenous knowledges into University programs. Student appeals; lots of emotions, my exp in HR and GSS will remember that I don't shy away from those issues. I'm able to fit their meeting schedules into my existing schedule.

## Questions

Nathaniel: issues in senate, what's the one thing that you'll fight for grad students?

Ashenafi: approval of the new courses in policies

Amber: policy is top priority, and fees and tutiion is allocated

Erik: more scholarships

Yangfan: Grad stud mental well being and career dev

Darren: Mental health resources

## Results of election:

Amber Shilling to the GSS Senate.

### c. **Matter #3 Presentation on GSS Harassment & Discrimination Survey 2017 by Ad Hoc Committee on Harassment and Discrimination**

- i. **Group responsible:** Katerina Othonos, Theresa Pauly, Ad Hoc Committee on Harassment and Discrimination
- ii. **Presentation description:** A brief motivation for the motion to approve the circulation of the GSS Harassment & Discrimination Survey 2017.
- iii. **Presentation time:** 10 minutes
- iv. **Link to ppt:** [https://drive.google.com/open?id=oB\\_nyQ2irWNRXoc5QzUwYXl1U1Es](https://drive.google.com/open?id=oB_nyQ2irWNRXoc5QzUwYXl1U1Es)
- v. **Motion** :

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**WHEREAS**, the Graduate Student Society of UBC–Vancouver’s mission is to advocate for, promote, and protect the academic, social, intellectual, cultural and recreational interests of its members, and

**WHEREAS**, according to the GSS Strategic plan 2017–2021, the GSS envisions to support UBC graduate students by fostering a positive, inclusive, and connected community on and off–campus, and actively support initiatives to improve health and well–being, and

**WHEREAS**, one of the identified strategies to foster a safe and supportive working environment and campus for all graduate students is to securely and anonymously collect qualitative and qualitative data from students, and

**WHEREAS** the GSS Ad Hoc Committee on Harassment and Discrimination has finalized an updated GSS Harassment & Discrimination Survey that will enable the GSS to securely and anonymously collect such qualitative and qualitative data from graduate students,

**BIRT** GSS Council approves the distribution of the GSS Harassment and Discrimination Survey 2017 from November 1st to November 30th, 2017.

vi. **MOVER:** Katerina Othonos                      **SECONDER:** Theresa Pauly

Questions:

Krish: Are you going to ask SEERS so send out the survey to students?

Presenter: Yes.

For (22): Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Krish Maharaj, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Megan Russell, Anna Vozna, Lisa Zhu

Motion passes.

d. **Matter #4 Presentation on GSS Peer-to-Peer Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAPI) Training**

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- i. **Group responsible:** Katerina Othonos
- ii. **Presentation description:** Description of the GSS Peer-to-Peer Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAPI) program and details on the SAPI training schedule for the upcoming year.
- iii. **Presentation time:** 10 minutes
- iv. **Link to ppt:** [https://drive.google.com/open?id=oB\\_nyO2irWNRyKxjRG01aHNOOTQ](https://drive.google.com/open?id=oB_nyO2irWNRyKxjRG01aHNOOTQ)

Questions:

Peter: Are you going to be collaborating with SASC or wellness program?

Ty: Yes, they know what we're doing, but this is targeted towards graduate students, the university hasn't developed one yet. We'll continue to collaborate and G&A to entrench this training.

## B. 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

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an Affiliate Organization, therefore:  
**BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in October 2018:

- Land and Food Systems Graduate Student Association
- Genome science and technology student group
- Reproductive and developmental sciences social organization
- School of Journalism students' association
- Rehabilitation sciences executive committee
- Forestry graduate student association

Motivation:

Land and Food systems have had great programs

Nath: Genome sciens: one of the small programs, over the last year, we haven't renewed our membership and we have new leadership and try to get this going.

Alyssa: call to questino to vote

Second: Nathaniel

Speaker: Call to question.

MOVER: Arezoo Alemzadeh SECONDER: David G

For (13): Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Krish Maharaj, Katerina Othonos, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson

Motion passed.

## C. 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        | iv. Graduate Council   |
| ii. VP External Relations                  | v. Senate              |
| iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee | vi. Board of Governors |

### b. No questions

## D. Matters for Discussion

### **Naylor report motion**

WHEREAS earlier this year the Science Minister Kirsty Duncan commissioned the Fundamental Review of Science (Naylor Report) which has set out 35 clear recommendations for the future of fundamental research in Canada

WHEREAS the report has been widely lauded by student organizations and institutions across the nation and

WHEREAS the GSS has been asked to formally support the report through a campaign, #Students4theReport, initiated by the graduate student society of McGill

BIRT the GSS formally endorses the #Students4theReport campaign asking the federal government to fully implement the recommendations from the Naylor Report.

<http://sp-exchange.ca/students4thereport/>

Mover: Katerina O.                      Seconder: Krish M.

For (16): Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, Francisco Gallegos, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Shona Robinson, Megan Russell, Lisa Zhu

Abstained: Krish Maharaj

~~1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:~~

~~a. Governance vs. Operations: A crash course on motions~~

- ~~i. Proposed objective: Review the distinct roles & responsibilities of Council and committees. Inform and encourage confidence, due diligence, and productivity in all relationships between Councillors/committees and Council.~~
- ~~ii. Group responsible: Amanda P., Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee~~
- ~~iii. Presentation time: 10 minutes~~
- ~~iv. Presentation description: Review how the GSS manages the 'governance' vs. the 'operations' of the Society, and the role that Council plays, vs. the complementary roles that GSS Committees play. Review what makes a strong motion, when one is needed, and how motions get things done in our Society's structure.~~
- ~~v. Relevant materials: Will be circulated as a reference to all Councillors after the presentation.~~

Postponed to the next meeting.

Moved by Amanda P. and Seconded by Nathaniel L.

Motion passed.

## E. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting

- a. Date: November 16, 2017
- b. Time: 5:30 pm
- c. Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Student Nest

2. Notice of Unseatings:

### Graduate Council Representatives:

Amanda Pizio, Balsher Sidhu, Natalie Marshall to be unseated as Graduate Council Representatives.

### Faculty of Science Representative:

Yangfan Zhang, Christina Wiesmann, Natalie Marshall to be unseated as Faculty of

Science Representatives.

## Standing Committees:

Yahya Mohammadzadeh to be unseated as Chair of Academic and External Affairs Committee.

Amanda Pisiso, Atefeh Samani, Balsher Singh Sidhu, Emily Murphy, Heather Mackay, Natalie Marshall, Sarah-Nelle Jackson, Alyssa Kirlin to be unseated as Councillor of Academic and External Affairs Committee.

Yahya Mohammadzadeh to be unseated as Ordinary Member of Academic and External Affairs Committee.

Nathaniel Lim to be unseated as Chair of Code & Policy Committee.

David Gill, Nathaniel Lim, Peter Musser to be unseated as Councillor of Code & Policy Committee.

Charles Copeland, Even Trofimchuck, Michelle Chakraborti to be unseated as Ordinary Member of Code & Policy Committee.

Katerina Othonos, Sebastien Rettie to be unseated as Councillors of the Elections Committee.

Min Xia, Natasha Little to be unseated as Ordinary Members of of the Elections Committee.

Natalie Marshall to be unseated as Councillor of Executive Oversight Committee.

Jennifer Campbell, Lee Rippon to be unseated as Ordinary Member of Executive Oversight Committee.

Jennifer Campbell to be unseated as Chair of House Finance Committee.

Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu, Nathaniel Lim, Souvik Ray to be unseated as Councillor of House Finance Committee.

David Sasse, Jennifer Campbell, Pedro Odon to be unseated as Ordinary Member of House Finance Committee.

Arif Arif to be unseated as Chair of Human Resources Committee.

Atefeh Samani, Namrata Jain, Peter Musser, Sebastien Rettie, Souvik Ray, Natalie

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Marshall to be unseated as Councillor of Human Resources Committee.

Arif Arif, Soheila Zarei to be unseated as Ordinary Member of Human Resources Committee.

Matthew Gynn to be unseated as Chair of Services Committee.

John Depuis, Rachele Benjamin to be unseated as Councillor of Services Committee.

Evan Trofimchuck, Jessica Li, Matthew Gynn to be unseated as Ordinary Member of Services Committee.

Amanda Pizio to be unseated as councillor of G&A Ad-hoc Committee.

Nathaniel Lim to be unseated as councillor of G&A Ad-hoc Committee.

Rachele Benjamin to be unseated as departmental rep for psychology.

## **AMS-GSS Committees:**

Bradley Balaton to be unseated as AMS Council Rep of Academic and External Affairs 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

Updates in the Increase in the UBC Tuition Fee Proposal

UBC is currently gathering the feedback from UBC students on the Increase in the Tuition Consultation 2018/19. There will not be TownHall this year, but only online tuition fee consultation.

This consultation is open until: November 7, 2017

<https://consultations.students.ubc.ca/consultations/tuition-consultation-201819>

Acknowledgement of GSS's office manager Vivian for her 10 years of work by Taran Dhillon:

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On October 9th, 2017, Vivian (Min) Tian completed 10 years of her service at the GSS as the Office Manager.

Just a quick note to say a big thank you to everyone who has wished me a happy 10 year work anniversary. It has been my honor and privilege to work with the GSS over the years, giving the best service possible for all GSS executives, staff and graduate students. I look forward to continuing many more years with the GSS in making it the best experience for all UBC graduate students.

Thank you for your continued support and appreciation!

*Thank you,*

Killam Teaching Prizes are currently live for nomination (deadline Feb 1)

<http://www.arts.ubc.ca/about-arts/awards-and-prizes/>. Come January, we will appreciate your assistance finding 2 students willing to serve on the Killam Selection Committee. This email is 3 months premature, however, past student presidents have suggested several months' notice would be most helpful!

The Provost aims to include one Arts Undergraduate and one Arts Graduate student on the selection committee, chaired by the Senior Associate Dean of Faculty & Equity, Kathryn Harrison. Your help in finding two Arts students (1 undergrad, 1 grad) willing to serve in this capacity during February and early March 2018 would be most appreciated.

The time commitment is dependent on number of nominations (which will not be known until Feb 1); however, historically it's been roughly 10-hours over 4-5 weeks:

- Drop-in to the Dean's Office at one's leisure over the course of 3 weeks to review the nomination binders and rank them (6-12hrs over Feb)

- Participate in a full Committee Meeting to deliberate rankings and select the

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winners (1-2hrs late Feb or early March)

Ride sharing and the opportunities and challenges it faces within the province Lyft is beginning to engage with key stakeholders in British Columbia regarding ride sharing and the opportunities and challenges it faces within the province

## Council Discussion

Andrew Szeri and Louise Cowin are going to host October 24<sup>th</sup> strategic planning workshop to share the strategic plan draft model and have an opportunity for early engagement. The GSS and AMS Execs had a meeting with the Provost Andrew Szeri and VP Students Lousie Cowin on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm (Provost's Boardroom, 6<sup>th</sup> floor Koerner Library)

## Meeting with FOGPS

The GSS Exec members had meeting with the Dean, FGPS- Dr. Susan Porter to discuss the following issue/s:

1. Discussion of the ballroom space. We'd appreciate knowing more precisely where your negotiations are, what the anticipated timeline is for the lease, and whether the proposal has been approved by your Council. If so, how aware were they of the likely consequences we discussed last week?
2. Are you open to other possibilities to achieve financial solvency? Are you open to us assisting you in any way?
3. How interested are you in exploring the possibility of a Grad Life Centre?

## Sexual Assault Prevention office ( President updates)

Policy 131 sets out UBC's commitments, describes the new Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office, provides important definitions, and outlines the

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investigation process that will take place when a complainant chooses to report sexual assault or other sexual misconduct for the purpose of investigation.

Currently we have an interim Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) set up in the C.K. Choi building, staffed by Ashley Bentley, Advisor, Sexual Assault Intervention and Prevention. Janet Mee, Director of Access & Diversity, is supporting Ashley in this work, with additional resources through a counselling practice with expertise in sexual violence.

The new Director of SVPRO, Sonya Boyce, will arrive on October 16 and one of her first priorities is to hire a response specialist (to support students, faculty and staff) as well as an educator. She will also lead the opening of UBC Vancouver's new SVPRO in Orchard Commons by the end of October.

If you have a question or wish to clarify the current processes of support for students, or educational activities, please contact Janet Mee at 604-822-8950 or [janet.mee@ubc.ca](mailto:janet.mee@ubc.ca) . If you have further questions about the policy, please reach out to Sara-Jane Finlay at 604-822-5454 or [sarajane.finlay@ubc.ca](mailto:sarajane.finlay@ubc.ca).

Tuition Consultation ( President updates)

The consultation regarding the general tuition increase that we met to discuss. We had previously noted that the consultation would start today, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. However we are still waiting for final approvals on the consultation materials, and so for now it is being pushed to open tomorrow, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This means that it will also stay open another day to ensure that we have a 30-day consultation.

If it is pushed again, I will provide another update.

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The package was sent to the SHIP program and to the elders of the Haida Nation as part of the reconciliation.

Had meeting with Tim Yu ( koerners Pub) on Oct 2 to discuss about the renewing the agreement/JV between GSS and Koerners pub

Appreciating and Awarding the Plaque to Vivian Tian for her exceptional services and commitment towards the GSS for the past 10 years

Grandparenting and Fee Transfer Rules – Graduate Students and International Undergraduate Students

Please find attached the new grandparenting rules for the graduate and undergraduate students for your information. Please let me know if you have any concerns by October 6<sup>th</sup> (Fri).

Seedlings started its operation in the GSS Penthouse again this year, the contract is till December 2017 to be renewed before December ends.

## **Current UBC Tution Fee consultations**

UBC is currently seeking student feedback on these issues online. There will be no townhall this year.

[Tuition Consultation 2018/19](#)

Published on October 10, 2017. Consultation is open until November 7, 2017.

The website link to the online consultation is here:

<https://consultations.students.ubc.ca/consultations>

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GSS councillors Retreat : I am working currently with the Events Manager to organize a GSS councillors retreat and Training event. The main elements of this retreat will be to train the new GSS councillors about the GSS bylaws and RROR and Policies and also to help them socialize and meet the current GSS councillors and make connections.

The Killam Teaching Prizes that are currently live for nomination (deadline Feb 1) <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/about-arts/awards-and-prizes/>. Come January, we will appreciate your assistance finding 2 students willing to serve on the Killam Selection Committee. This email is 3 months premature, however, past student presidents have suggested several months' notice would be most helpful! The Provost aims to include one Arts Undergraduate and one Arts Graduate student on the selection committee, chaired by the Senior Associate Dean of Faculty & Equity, Kathryn Harrison. Your help in finding two Arts students (1 undergrad, 1 grad) willing to serve in this capacity during February and early March 2018 would be most appreciated.

The time commitment is dependent on number of nominations (which will not be known until Feb 1); however, historically it's been roughly 10-hours over 4-5 weeks:

- Drop-in to the Dean's Office at one's leisure over the course of 3 weeks to review the nomination binders and rank them (6-12hrs over Feb)

- Participate in a full Committee Meeting to deliberate rankings and select the winners (1-2hrs late Feb or early March)

I will re-send this request early January, but wanted to give you a head's-up well in advance. I will require the name, program, year, and email address of each Arts student-volunteer once they've been identified.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and many thanks for your help!

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UBC's protection of student data

Bryan (a graduate student of J-School, UBC ) has found some gaps in UBC's protection of student data and how the AMS might be able to work to support creating stronger protections. Bryan is interested in looking to create a student bill of rights in this realm, and I suggested we might be wise to contact you about this matter because I am frankly not well informed (nor capable of creating such policy) myself.

The AMS VP Academic Jakob and I have been working with Brian on this issue and had meetings with the Ombudsperson and concerned people at CTLT.

On behalf of the Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan team, I wanted to reach out to you and make sure that your organization/department had the opportunity to participate in our Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC will provide an opportunity for a diversity of stakeholder interests to provide input and advice on the neighbourhood planning process, plan content, and other relevant topics that may emerge.

We are seeking representation from a cross-section of the UBC community including faculty and student representation, neighbourhood residents, facilities that have a close relationship with the Stadium Road Neighbourhood site, the University Neighbourhood Association, and UBC staff related to planning and development.

Meetings are anticipated to take place on a monthly basis on the Point Grey campus.

We are asking your organization and department to nominate 1 individual to represent your interests on the PAC.

Please respond with a recommended contact/member and we can provide all the relevant information as soon as it is finalized.

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Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss the role and composition of this Committee (or if you have any Stadium Road Neighbourhood related questions).

## ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer

The EOC reviewed the goals of the execs on October 13, 2017. The feedback has been communicated to the Exec. The issues raised by the committee are to guide the execs in the review of their goals. The committee is also making plans to meet the mandated deadline from our Policy Manual on reporting to Council on Executive performance. Our next meeting is on October 27, 2017.

## iii. Executive Oversight Committee

## iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee

- Have focused on improving Council function, namely how G&A and EOC can work together to train all Councillors, Executives, and Committee chairs, and especially regarding how to effectively bring forward motions.
- Upcoming:
  - ◆ (1) Preparing all GSS committees to set goals for their first ever annual goal review, according to the Strategic Plan
  - ◆ (2) Developing & presenting proposals to Council on how to improve our society's governance.

## v. House Finance Committee

- 

## vi. Code & Policy Committee

- Had meeting on September (Transitioning of Chairs)
  - ◆ Overview on pending priorities of the committee
    - A. Investigate Constitution/Bylaw compliance to BC Society Act
      - 1. (Amendments passed in 2016 AGM)
      - 2. May consider follow-up with BC Registrar of Societies
    - B. Finalize and Implement Chair Transition Report
- New priorities:
  - ◆ Updating Standing Committees' Terms of Reference

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◆ Drafting “Special Rules of Order of Council”

vii. Human Resources Committee

- 

viii. AMS Council

- 

ix. Elections Committee

- 

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

i. VP Students

- First off campus Yoga class was today and UBC recreation is paying the instructor and we cover the rental cost. I have attended and will continue attending the Move UBC campaign. Last week working on evaluating the eventfund reports as well as evaluating the AO's applications.
- Also today was the first French class as well.
- I Have sent and will continue sending emails to all the AO's ( those we have the emails ) and ask them if they consider themselves offcampus or on campus and collect data as asked in the services committee. Nicole and I developed a survey for the orientation to get feedback and are sending the email tomorrow. I applied for being partner with UBC on behalf of GSS. Proposal: During the lunch-time of November 1st , We can share resources of mental health with the students. It's kind of Coffee social. And we will share with the students about the UBC resources for mental health. Will contact Patty and Peter Musser regarding that.( GSS councillor)
- Event-Fund has been approved for: Indian graduate student association
- Classes
- Yoga class: sold out with 41 people, maximum number that teacher allowed us to register.
- **\*\*Statistic (September semesters): 2015: 10; 2016: 16; 2017: 41**
- Zumba class: sold out with 30 people, maximum number that teacher allowed us to register.
- **\*\*Statistic (September semesters): 2015: 0; 2016: 16; 2017: 30**
- French class 101: sold out with 21 people, maximum number that teacher allowed us to register.

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- **\*\*Statistic (September semesters): 2015: 5; 2017: 21**
- French class 102: 15 people registered, have room for 5 more people
- **\*\*Statistic (September semesters): 2015: 0; 2017: 15**
- **Events:**
  - wine tour with limo was sold out (26 ppl); Grad night out almost sold out (40 ppl), so we perhaps will increase the capacity
  - November: partnering with UBC thrive week (week of promoting mental health), GSS will hold a pizza connection lunch, and teach about UBC mental health resources (free event); archery tag; professional headshots
- Surveys was sent out on orientation event: Here is the link to the survey: <http://gss.ubc.ca/orientation-2017-feedback/>
- **Results:**
- Quality: events were mostly rated either good or excellent. Less than a 5 percent were rated bad or poor
- The reason why they didn't participate all of the events: Time conflict (about 35%); financially (about 30%); about 26% wasn't interested in all the events; 5% didn't know about it; 8% preferred to have their friends with.
- How likely will attend future GSS events: 12% extremely likely; 26% very likely; 42% somewhat likely; 16% not so likely, 4% not at all likely
- How they hear about GSS orientation events: 53% GSS emails; 20% website; 10% social media; 12% G+PS emails; 5% word of mouth
- What they did like about GSS orientation: 59% meeting new people; 36% variety of events; 4% well promoted; 1% happened before the school started
- Suggestion for improvements: free/ better food (35%); flexibility with pricing (23%); Provide more valuable information for grads in the tour (14%); More groups for activity fair (12%); more advertising (7%); Many events conflicted with departmental orientations (7%); Have more international students' relevant events (2%)
- **Off Campus:**
- A meeting was coordinated by me and Ty between the director of wellness center and off campus leaders at VGH. Off campus leaders expressed their limitations and concerns, and wellbeing office promised to convey their concerns to higher UBC officials as well as extend their facilities there. So far, they have provided thorough information regarding all the mental health and wellbeing

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initiatives that can be used by off campus students without coming to campus.

- OFF campus Yoga class: Finally made possible!!! 14 people registered, and that is a very decent number, considering about 1000 grad students are at Oak street campus, and was advertised once in GSS newsletter, and has no reputation over there. Recreation paid for the instructor, and GSS paid for the rental.
- ii. Services Committee
  -
- iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee
  - We are meeting regularly. The meeting time 3pm-8pm, every 1st Wednesday of the month
  - Ad Hoc Committee on H&D Update:
  - We have finalized, coded and approved the new H&D Survey to be circulated to Council for approval. With the Council's approval we will be sending out the survey out on November 1st, 2017. A PDF version of the survey is included in the Council package for councillors to review and provide feedback.
- iv. GSS/AMS Referendum ad hoc Committee
  -
- c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics
  - i. VP University & Academic Affairs
    - 1. Kirthana Sasitharan and I have figured out the roll-out schedule of Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention (SAPI) Training for Graduate Students (formerly known as the GSS Active Bystander Program) for this academic year. And, together with the team of facilitators of SAPI, we also have finalized the program. Katerina Othonos, one of the facilitators and GSS councilor, will do a short presentation in the council to encourage old and new councilors to take part in the inaugural workshop.
    - 2. We are currently in the process of hiring a second advocate. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed on 20 October 2017. I am hoping that the second advocate will start working on 01 November 2017. Thank you to the members of the HR Committee and the Subcommittee on Hiring the

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Second Advocate, and to Anna Kim, for all your help. At the same time, I have started consulting with a database management consultant on improving our system for recording and documenting cases of the GSS Advocacy Office. Marjann Abdolahi and I met with this consultant last week.

3. These two activities are central in the realization of key goals for my term. So expect to hear more about them in the next council meetings.

## ii. VP External Relations

- These past weeks have been extremely busy in terms of both school and my portfolio, and I have engaged in various degrees with CASA, the ABCS, internal concerns, and other groups on campus.
- As a member of the graduate committee of CASA, I am tasked with reviewing and proposing policy and I have been engaged with research on that level for a number of weeks. I hope to complete the policy review process within the next week to be able to present it at our grad council meeting. We have recently changed the time of our biweekly meetings to accommodate changed schedules (myself included) and our next meeting will be next week on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Engagement with CASA will be even greater as the annual Lobby Days approaches at the end of November.
- The ABCS has entailed even more work. In addition to preparing and attending monthly meetings (including an additional one for this month to review bylaws), I have met several times with fellow directors to discuss our priorities and strategies for the year. In particular, I have been engaged with working on the Strategic Vision of the ABCS, which has just finished its preliminary information-gathering phase. The next step to be undertaken before Lobby Days mid-October is the preparation of a draft Vision, which is being spearheaded by myself and the representative from CSU. I am also working on the preparation of the ABCS Lobby Document in collaboration with the other officers and the various staff at their respective institutions.
- Meetings scheduled for this week included a Monday morning meeting with

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Caitlin, the chair of the ABCS, to discuss a presentation to the CSU; the G+PS meeting we all attended Monday; a meeting with Lily Ivanova (of the GSWN) to smooth over the relationship that was harmed there to happen Friday; and finally, a presentation at CSU also on Friday. Of course, this is in addition to the research and planning that are part of my day-to-day work as VP External and regular responses to emails. This list is also not exhaustive and includes the important items in my schedule for this week only.

iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee

- 

iv. Graduate Council

- 

v. Senate

- 

vi. Board of Governors

## F. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at \_\_9:06\_\_ pm.

MOVER: Krish M.

SECONDER: Katerina O.

For (17): **Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, Claire Gregoire, Nandinee Haq, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Krish Maharaj, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Shona Robinson, Megan Russell, Lisa Zhu**

Against (1): **Katerina Othonos**

Motion passed.