



ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Abdullah Hassan, Alejandra Botia, Alireza Kamyabi, Andrew Zang, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Arwa Nemir, Axel Hauduc, Cody Brown, Erik Frieling, Ginny Pichler, Gloria Mellesmoen, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jonathan Summers, Jin Wen, Jordan Hamden, Kimani Karangu, Lihwen Hsu, Maria Jose Martinez, Mina Rigby-Thompson, Mostafa Hagar, Nancy Yang, Negar Ghahramani, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Oluwakemi Oke, Rio Picollo, Sarah Park, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Tarique Benbow, Tayo Olarewaju, Thomas Smith.

Regrets:

Absent: Airu Ji, Arash Shadkam, Joseph Garen, Judith Valerie Engel, Kiana Yau, Larissa Peck, Megha Kalia, Mollie Holmberg, Nafise Faridi, Raphael Debert, Skicy Liu, Teesha Luehr, Xuejun Ryan Ji, Yangfan Zhang.

Quorum: 21 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:35 pm**.

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be amended.

Mover: Jackson Schumacher

Second: Nevena Rebic

Result: Amendment Defeated

DISCUSSION:

Jackson: Can we change the number of vacancies for AMS Caucus to 2. And could we also add the equivalent of an AMS Caucus Chair?

Speaker: Any opposed to add the chair for AMS Caucus and amending the vacancies to 2?

Nicolas: I'd like to speak against the motion as stated because we haven't passed the policy, to my awareness, that creates the position of the chair or head of the Caucuses. It's up for discussion later today so I think the amendment of the number of vacancies is a friendly one so we could just drop this amendment and amend the number of available seats in the Caucus. But I'm against this amendment because the position of chair, last I checked, still didn't exist. Even though Arash has been doing the job informally.

Jordan: Point of clarification. Just want to say that Nicolas is correct, we will be discussing that today.

Alireza: I'd like to suggest moving it for after the passing of the CPC Bylaw regarding Caucuses chair just so that we don't leave it without a chair.



Jackson: I didn't realize that Arash's position was informal so it's fine if we scratch this amendment except for the two position for now, with me.

VOTES:

AGAINST (18): Thomas Smith, Nancy Yang, Alejandra Botia, Axel Hauduc, Ginny Pichler, Tayo Olarewaju, Jenny Lee, Aaron Loewen, Cody Brown, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Gloria Mellesmoen, Mina Rigby Thompson, Andrew Zang, Jordan Hamden, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Erik Frieling, Maria Jose Martinez, Nicolas Romualdi

DISCUSSION:

Tayo: I move to amend the presentations on the budget and EOC. They are currently listed for 10 minutes each, and I would like to propose for both to be 15 minutes long.

Speaker: President, is this friendly?

Kimani: Yes, it is.

Speaker: there will be no discussion since the president has accepted this as friendly.

Alireza: Point of order, I believe Jackson is in the speaker's list.

Jackson: I actually wanted to withdraw the amendment before we voted on it, but would it be a friendly amendment to still change the number of vacancies to 2? Without the issue of the chair?

Kimani: Are you requesting that we reduce the number participating in the Caucus?

Speaker: He wants to change it to 2.

Kimani: Yes, friendly.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Tarique Benbow

Second: Jackson Schumacher

Result: Motion carried

VOTES:

FOR (26): Kimani Karangu, Alireza Kamyabi, Jordan Hamden, Arwa Nemir, Axel Hauduc, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Tayo Olarewaju, Cody Brown, Andrew Zang, Nancy Yang, Ginny Pichler, Negar Ghahramani, Maria Jose Martinez, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Tarique Benbow, Thomas Smith, Alejandra Botia, Aaron Loewen, Mina Rigby Thompson, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Erik Frieling, Sarah Park, Jenny Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Jonathan Summers.



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you so much. Good evening everyone. On behalf of the UBC GSS I would like to acknowledge that Vancouver Point Grey Campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unseeded territory of the Musqueam People and I would like to acknowledge that you are joining us today from many places, near and far, and acknowledge the traditional owners and caretakers of those lands. This meeting may proceed, thank you so much.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- April 16th, 2020

Mover: Jordan Hamden

Second: Kimani Karangu

Result: Motion Carried

VOTES:

FOR (25): Kimani Karangu, Maria Jose Martinez, Oluwakemi Oke, Mostafa Hagar, Erik Frieling, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Nicolas Romualdi, Negar Ghahramani, Jonathan Summers, Andrew Zang, Nancy Yang, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Sarah Park, Axel Hauduc, Mina Rigby Thompson, Alejandra Botia, Ginny Pichler, Aaron Loewen, Tarique Benbow, Thomas Smith, Jenny Lee, Arwa Nemir, Gloria Mellesmoen, Alireza Kamyabi, Jordan Hamden.

1.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	May 14, 2020	Human Resources Committee:	Mar 31, 2020 & Apr 14, 2020
Code and Policy Committee:	Apr 27, 2020 & May 4, 2020	Services Committee:	
Elections Committee:	Mar 26, 2020	AMS Caucus:	
Executive Committee:		Graduate Council:	



Executive Oversight Committee		House Finance Committee:	Feb 12, 2020, Mar 5, 2020, Mar 20, 2020, Apr 8, 2020, Apr 15, 2020, Apr 23, 2020, Apr 30, 2020, May 7, 2020 & May 15, 2020
Governance & Accountability Committee:	Apr 10, 2020 & Apr 23, 2020	Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:	

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Seconded: Jackson Schumacher

Result: Motion Carried

VOTES:

FOR (25): Tarique Benbow, Nevena Rebic, Alejandra Botia, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Jenny Lee, Alireza Kamyabi, Axel Hauduc, Erik Frieling, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Gloria Mellesmoen, Kimani Karangu, Ginny Pichler, Mostafa Hagar, Mina Rigby Thompson, Maria Jose Martinez, Jonathan Summers, Tayo Olarewaju, Cody Brown, Thomas Smith, Oluwakemi Oke, Aaron Loewen, Jordan Hamden, Lihwen Hsu, Arwa Nemir, Nancy Yang.

2 SEATINGS

2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Rio Picollo	School of Library, Archives and Information Studies

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Seconded: Jackson Schumacher

Result: Motion Carried

VOTES

FOR (24): Kimani Karangu, Nancy Yang, Mina Rigby Thompson, Sarah Park, Maria Jose Martinez, Axel Hauduc, Oluwakemi Oke, Alejandra Botia, Cody Brown, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Tarique Benbow, Jonathan Summers, Nicolas Romualdi, Jenny Lee, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Arwa Nemir, Gloria Mellesmoen, Aaron Loewen, Andrew Zang, Lihwen Hsu, Nevena Rebic, Jordan Hamden, Erik Frieling, Alireza Kamyabi.

2.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.

[Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.](#)



BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
S Caucus		representative	2
Graduate Council		representative	
Faculty of Arts Council		representative	
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		representative	

Mover: Jordan Hamden

Seconded: Maria Jose
Martinez

Motion Carried

Result:

DISCUSSION

Jackson: The AMS is the Alma Mater Society which is just the universities general student government. They do all sort of things that are extremely important. In cooperation with the GSS they negotiate the Health and Dental Plan, they negotiate U-Pass TransLink agreement, they own and operate the Nest and they have a whole host of student services like the Sexual Assault Response Center. The GSS sends 4 representatives to that Caucus to represent Grad Students. It's an extremely important position for us. It's also super fun, it's a multimillion-dollar industry so the meetings can get kind of spicy. It's a fairly large time commitment. There are 2 meetings every month and then you'll have some other commitments if you join any committee within the AMS Council. It's worth it. You should come and join me and Nevena at AMS Caucus.

Speaker: Any nominations? Should we move on? We have to vote on an empty list because there's a motion on the floor. Last call for nomination?

VOTES

FOR (23): Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Jenny Lee, Tarique Benbow, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Thomas Smith, Sarah Park, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najjy), Nevena Rebic, Cody Brown, Maria Jose Martinez, Mina Rigby Thompson, Axel Hauduc, Nancy Yang, Negar Ghahramani, Oluwakemi Oke, Mostafa Hagar, Alejandra Botia, Arwa Nemir, Aaron Loewen, Jin Wen, Jordan Hamden, Gloria Mellesmoen.

2.2.1 Committee Seatings

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.

[Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.](#)



BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External	Arwa Nemir	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	4
Elections		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3
Executive Oversight		Councillor	3
	Nicholas Phin	Ordinary Member	4
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	4
House Finance		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	0
Human Resources		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	2
Services		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	0
Strategic Planning Ad Hoc		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1

Mover: Tayo Olarewaju

Seconded: Arezoo Alemzadeh
Mehrizi

Motion Carried

Result:

DISCUSSION

Sara H.: I want to nominate Arwa as a Councillor for AcEx.

Arwa: I accept, thank you Sara.

Jordan: We have several vacancies at CPC as you can see. If you're a new member to the GSS, it's a great place to start off. You'll get to learn all part of the GSS as we collaborate with all committees and as you'll hear later with the Caucuses as well. It's a really fun place to be and a lot of great people so if you're looking at a Committee to join, come check us out!



Alejandra: I'd like to motivate. After going through the Election cycle, there's a lot of the learning lessons that we're wanting to implement and taking into action and implementation. I think this is a very exciting phase as to where Elections is right now, and I highly encourage you to join us.

Tayo: As you can see, we have quite a few vacancies at EOC. It's a good place to join right now since we just recently transitioned to a new set of executives. It's a place to support the current executive and hold them accountable. We're going to be looking at their SMART goals and this is a way to understand the internal and external parts of the GSS, how we operate and what we do and get a broad operate as to how we function. It's also a place to meet great people and we do need members right now, so I especially encourage Councillors to join.

Jin: Basically, the purpose of G&A is to provide best practices for governors at the GSS and also to ensure accountability of the committees and caucuses to completing goals as we've laid out in our strategic plans and also our goals to GSS Council. Overall, G&A is a good place to learn how everything works because you work with a multitude of committees. So, if you have any experience or want to gain any experience in organizational leadership, G&A is a great committee to join.

Christina: The HF Committee deals with the House which is Thea Koerner House, we deal with renovations and this year we're looking at updating the booking policy and we also deal with finance, so we review the budget every month. We've been heavily involved in creating the budget that we're presenting today. I'm also thinking of stepping down as chair sometime in the future so if you're keen to chairing a committee, there's an opportunity there.

Arezoo: Since last month due to graduation we lost 4 members of our committee, we were almost full and were excited to have so many people working on common goals and exciting goals but 4 of them had to leave because of graduation. We've set a lot of interesting goals and we need more people in the committee. Basically as HR, we're the oversight body of our staff and we set the HR Manual book and we have to oversight and see if all the procedures are followed properly so with regards to the activities we do a lot of hiring and firing or development of JD's or creating or removing positions, these type of Human Resource related tasks always come to the committee. Aside from that we set some exciting goals for the committee and one of them is the market assessment of salaries which is done but the next step is to see how we want to promote our staff by increasing years of experience in the GSS and the other goals we want to work on is to define and have a more inclusive vision for HR. Another goal is to define a new supervisory structure for the GSS, related to staff. We're doing lots of surveys and lots of exciting discussions to come up with strategies. This is a very exciting committee to sit on and I think there's lots of learning in this committee. Because we do a lot of interviews, by looking at how people present themselves and how they write their CV's you learn as to how later you present yourself and write your CV efficiently. I would really appreciate if you guys join the committee.

Andrew: My name is Andrew and I'm the new chair. We work very closely with our Events Manager Nicole and VP Students, Sarah, and we're a great group of people. We do a lot of planning and decision making for the events you see around UBC for Grad Students. If you're interested in event planning, building a grad community, it's a lot of fun so come check us out.



Jackson: People are going to get tired of hearing from me. The Strat Plan Committee is creating the next 5-year plan and guide on priorities of the GSS until 2026. Getting this right is obviously important so if you have an interest in organizational structure and goal setting and planning, this is a great committee for you. Come join us!

Speaker: Last call to join committees? Seeing none, I will send the vote out. Vivian while we're waiting, perhaps we can send some sort of survey at the end of the meeting to see if there's any process that needs to be improved since this is all new. It's hard for me to see people's faces and see if they're getting annoyed or not.

VOTES

FOR (23): Ginny Pichler, Jordan Hamden, Jenny Lee, Jackson Schumacher, Jin Wen, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Axel Hauduc, Maria Jose Martinez, Jonathan Summers, Kimani Karangu, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Nancy Yang, Alejandra Botia, Aaron Loewen, Mina Rigby Thompson, Cody Brown, Sarah Park, Andrew Zang, Arwa Nemir, Nevena Rebic, Tarique Benbow, Gloria Mellesmoen, Mostafa Hagar.

2.3 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Alejandra Botia to be seated as Chair for the Elections Committee.

Andrew Zang to be seated as Chair for the Services Committee.

Mover: Jordan Hamden **Second:** Kimani Karangu **Result:** Motion Carried

VOTES

FOR (22): Oluwakemi Oke, Ginny Pichler, Tarique Benbow, Kimani Karangu, Aaron Loewen, Nicolas Romualdi, Lihwen Hsu, Jonathan Summers, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Jenny Lee, Nevena Rebic, Negar Ghahramani, Cody Brown, Axel Hauduc, Mina Rigby Thompson, Alejandra Botia, Maria Jose Martinez, Gloria Mellesmoen, Alireza Kamyabi, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Jordan Hamden, Arwa Nemir.

ABSTAIN (1): Andrew Zang.

3 MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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



BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in May 2021:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Biomedical Engineering Graduate Association	Charles Lau
Centre for Heart Lung Innovation Trainee Association (HLI)	Daniel He
Creative Writing Students Association	Stacy Penner

Mover: Jackson Schumacher **Seconded:** Alireza Kamyabi **Result:** Motion Carried

DISCUSSION

Arezoo: Sorry but I think the mover should always be VP Students.

Speaker: It's not on the agenda so I can't make that decision.

Arezoo: I want to make the point that when the VP Students send these to the President or AA to put in the agenda, the mover should always be mentioned as VP Students. And the second point is that I have a question about Creative Writing Students Association. I was wondering if Sarah could explain about them and also what type of events or activities they want to hold.

Sarah: They are representing around 100-200 people and they organize Orientation events and monthly meetings with student readers as well as bringing headliner guests. Trivia nights and summer outings and obviously with COVID-19 in mind they have other events for the coming year, but they really focus on the reading aspect and community-oriented events. And then regarding your first point, I will make sure we do that moving forward.

VOTES

FOR (24): Oluwakemi Oke, Lihwen Hsu, Aaron Loewen, Alejandra Botia, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Nevena Rebic, Jenny Lee, Tayo Olarewaju, Jonathan Summers, Ginny Pichler, Cody Brown, Nancy Yang, Arwa Nemir, Axel Hauduc, Sarah Park, Negar Ghahramani, Mina Rigby Thompson, Jin Wen, Andrew Zang, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Maria Jose Martinez, Mostafa Hagar, Tarique Benbow, Jordan Hamden.

3.2 2020/2021 BUDGET

Group Responsible: FEEO/HF Committee

Description: 2020/2021 Budget

Proposed Objective: Adoption of the budget.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [BudgetPresentation.pptx](#), [MasterFileBudget.xlsx](#)



WHEREAS The fiscal year of the Society ends on the 31st of May each year, and the House Finance Committee has undergone extensive discussions and consultations regarding the 2020/2021 budget, and is satisfied with the proposed budget; and

WHEREAS the 2020/21 fiscal year is highly uncertain due to the novel Covid-19.

BIRT the GSS Council approves and adopts the tentative 2020/2021 budget as presented.

BIFRT a revised budget may be presented for GSS Council approval if the House and Finance Committee determines that due to changing circumstances a revised budget is required.

BIFRT a more detailed presentation will be presented in June 2020 Council Meeting.

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Seconded: Maria Jose
Martinez

Result: Motion Carried

DISCUSSION

Arezo: Thank you Tayo for the presentation and I would really like to thank HF Committee for such hard work, we have to applaud them. So, I have questions. I noticed that in the budget, for each executive there are some declines and increases but the total net, when I was comparing the budget of President, was reduced around 10k compared to last year. Is that because of the cost of just food? Or it could be coming from other sources? Again for other VP's there was some decrease and increase of initiatives or whatever request they have so I was wondering how HF was seeing this considering that they were noticing some activities that might decline, so there would be less money needed. So, at the end of the day that budget might decrease comparing to last year. I was wondering how HF was convinced of this. The allocated money has increased for the rest of the VP's. I don't know if my question is clear.

Tayo: Correct me if I'm wrong. I think that your question is considering the fact that HF currently thinks that revenue might decline, how come the budget of some executives have increased?

Arezo: It seems like the president was the only one that decreased, and I was wondering where that decrease came from? And I was also wondering how you are evaluating that a lot of activity, at least for a certain time, is not going to continue, I was wondering how you evaluate this and how you will increase the budget for the other VP's.

Tayo: For the President's budget the big difference came from food costs for Council and Committee meetings and also staff meetings and BBQ. Even though there were ways to save in other places in the budget, the main savings came from cutting food costs. However other executives proposed as I tried to show in the presentation, most expenditures come from new staff positions for both VP/UA and External. That's the major reason why they have surplus budgets compared to last year. Something that sparked the committee to make this decision was that looking at the actuals of last year which haven't been audited but we have the summary from our accountant, it shows that despite the surplus of 6k that was proposed last year, the actuals show that we ended up having over 100k that wasn't spent. In other words, the committee is trying to walk a fine line in ensuring that the money that we have, which should be used to provide student services, is actually spent. And ensuring that our executives don't spend lavishly. In other words, we try to encourage and yes, we can see that these are difficult times, however there are some services that should be provided as GSS, that's exactly why we exist. So, we just wanted to ensure that we actually empower them so that we know to accomplish their mandates while at the same time ensuring that they don't spend lavishly. So that's why the



committee also proposed that if we see that there's a decline from our expected revenue which right now we have, then we can propose a revised budget and work with the executives to ensure that they curtail their spending in any way while still offering the services we offer. Does that answer your question?

Arezoo: Yes sure, thank you.

Jonathan: Thanks for the presentation. I think there are a number of things that the GSS does very well and I'm afraid that budget presentations, in my experience, hasn't been one of them. I've been on Council for less than a year and there's already been a couple of occasions where we've had to request some budget overviews to be set back and re-done for lack of clarity and I'm afraid I need to suggest that this be the same case. Maybe it's my faults that I don't have experience in finance so I don't know how to read these types of documents and then there's the company excel sheet which has a lot of detail and breakdown but when I look at this overview I'm wondering: First of all, what are our revenues, since I don't see the revenue. When I look at the spreadsheet, I see that there's a \$787293 revenue, not sure if that's correct. And then I look at this document now, this overview, and what I want to see if revenues and expenses and a breakdown from department and then maybe the major expenses and revenues from each one and then what is the total expenses. I added it up and it says \$417839 if that's correct, it's not indicated on the general overview. And compared to last year \$409428. I'm just having a hard time reading and understanding this and I think it can be done a lot more simply and clearly for myself and members of the GSS to understand. Please correct me if my understanding is wrong. Thank you.

Tayo: The reason it was made this way was not to bother Councillors with too much detail and the actual document with the breakdown was attached. The question is how we came about the total revenue. Is that the question?

Jonathan: First of all, Corporate is one department as indicated here that has expenditures and there's 4 other departments that also have expenditures, correct?

Tayo: Yes.

Jonathan: And when I add all of these up, the total that I get in terms of expenses is \$417839. Is that correct? Are those our total expenses for the year?

Tayo: No. What is that you're adding up?

Jonathan: I added up the Corporate, the president, the VPUAA, External and VP Students. I add up each of their amounts and I assume that would give me the total of expenses which is \$417839. I would expect that to be indicated in a sort of budget overview like this. And if this is not the total amount then what is and what about the rest of \$787293 expected revenues?

Tayo: Looking at the revenues and expenses for each department in general the numbers showing are after deducting the expenses from the revenue of each department. I don't get the figures you're talking of.

Speaker: Are you asking Jonathan to share the screen? And I have a request from Nicolas to you Tayo, to see if he can reply for you. I'm not supposed to relay this message but are you able to entertain that?

Tayo: Yes, if he understands the question, please go ahead.

Nicolas: To answer the question that has been presented, that would not be correct way to calculate the total expense because the numbers summarized in the FEOOS presentation are the balance of each department so when you add the totals there, there's already internal expenses and revenue. So if you actually wanted to look at total expenses, you can't get this from the presentation, you would



have to look at the excel file and in the file, I'll give you the example for department 10, if you look at cell D94, that'll give you the projected total expense for the next fiscal year of department 10. If you do the same for the other departments and add the expenses, that will give you the total projected expenses for the Society. Now I understand that this may not be great for people who are not in HF but that is a question of the presentation. But to answer your specific question, Jonathan if you go to the excel spreadsheet and located D94 in department 10, if you go to department 11 you should be looking at cell U104 and so on. If you have to look at the total, amongst the very last lines is total expenses so if you look at total expenses and scroll to the right until you get the total for the year, add that for each department, that would give you the total projected expenses. But that's not reported in the presentation as such. I hope that answers your question.

Jonathan: Yes, it does clarify it. Thank you, Nicolas.

Tarique: Thank you again everyone for putting together this budget. I know just how an arduous task it is for the VP's and President as well as HF. To put together a document in such circumstances, I can only imagine. With the whole COVID crisis right now it adds another layer of difficulty to creating this so again, kudos to you guys. I raised my hand basically to really pull out some of the points that Jonathan brought out that I think the presentation could've been a bit more detailed in terms of numbers. What I'm expected to see from a budget presentation at the very least needs to address what are our expected revenues for the year, I understand it may be difficult to present given the COVID crisis and the impact that may have in our revenue avenues but I believe at least some projected numbers should be put forward for revenues and how has COVID impacted our revenues today. I expect some sort of summarized expenditure so yes, the excel document presented is adjoining and you know, Council is a multidisciplinary group so you need to make it a bit easier for us to read so I think if we can have this in the presentation for next time perhaps, that would be great. Where are our reserves? How much cash at bank do we have? Do we have any debts rather and what is our capital value at this time? I believe those 4 or 5 things would be quite prudent to bring out in any budgetary presentation and I want to charge the FEOO since he's fresh in the role to take on this challenge and perhaps come back for the next budget presentation with these clearly outlined in his presentation. Thank you, just wanted to comment.

Jackson: Hey Tayo, once again thanks for putting this together. I understand how much work it is and the sentiment of wanting to keep things simple. Jonathan and Tarique already covered most of the comments I had, the only additional thing, if you could clearly indicate for the variances whether the number was increasing or decreasing from one year to the next, that would be extremely helpful. Thanks.

Tayo: I just wanted to say that I understand the sentiment in the House and sincerely, a month ago, I would've shared the same sentiment. However, I request an amendment to the motion and also another clause that says BIFR that a more detailed presentation will be presented at June Council Meeting. The reason I say this is because I actually only got the project the night before which is the day before yesterday and Councillors that are very perceptive, would've noted that the agenda actually had to be sent out without these inclusions and that is because I only got this document from the accountant the day before so I actually had to work on it yesterday so yes, I agree that we should do a better job on presenting and another presentation will be done in the next meeting, however, I still ask that Councillors pass this because we need to ensure that the GSS actually has the funds to spend based on the budget, which we would not be able to if this motion doesn't pass.

BIFRT a more detailed presentation will be presented in June 2020 Council Meeting.



Mover: Tayo Olarewaju

Seconded: Jackson
Schumacher

Result: Amended

VOTES

FOR (26): Thomas Smith, Alireza Kamyabi, Kimani Karangu, Aaron Loewen, Andrew Zang, Lihwen Hsu, Alejandra Botia, Axel Hauduc, Mina Rigby Thompson, Cody Brown, Mostafa Hagar, Ginny Pichler, Negar Ghahramani, Nancy Yang, Nevena Rebic, Maria Jose Martinez, Arwa Nemir, Jenny Lee, Oluwakemi Oke, Jin Wen, Erik Frieling, Sara Hosseinirad (proxy for Nicholas Najy), Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Gloria Mellesmoen, Jonathan Summers, Jordan Hamden.

AGAINST (1): Tarique Benbow

-Back to main motion-

VOTES

FOR (19): Oluwakemi Oke, Erik Frieling, Negar Ghahramani, Axel Hauduc, Kimani Karangu, Lihwen Hsu, Arwa Nemir, Jenny Lee, Mostafa Hagar, Cody Brown, Maria Jose Martinez, Nevena Rebic, Nancy Yang, Alejandra Botia, Aaron Loewen, Mina Rigby Thompson, Andrew Zang, Gloria Mellesmoen, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

AGAINST (1): Tarique Benbow.

ABSTAIN (4): Sarah Park, Jonathan Summers, Jin Wen, Alireza Kamyabi.

4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 POLICY ADDITION PRESENTATION

Group Responsible: Jordan, CPC Chair

Description: The Graduate Council Caucus represents graduate students at Graduate Council, the legislative and administrative body for the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Policy 6.1.1 indicates that Graduate Council Representatives are councillors, and 6.3 discusses the selection of these representatives and of a Head Representative, but the manual does not address the co-ordination of these representatives as a Caucus, nor for the co-ordination of the similar AMS representatives and their Caucus. December 2018 Council established an unseating mechanism for these representatives and referred the issue of establishing the Caucus as an official entity to CPC. In consultation with the caucus head representatives ("chairs"), and with Governance & Accountability Committee, we have drafted the above policy to incorporate both the Graduate Council and AMS caucuses into the existing GSS



committee structure. Caucus chairs already perform a significant amount of work on behalf of the GSS, and we believe the above policy will both properly recognize these contributions, and also provide additional mechanisms to ensure that caucuses consistently communicate with the GSS regarding their projects and relevant issues in the Graduate Council and the AMS.

Proposed Objective: To list Caucuses as an official entity of the GSS and declare Caucus heads as "chairs" in the Policy manual. Listing Caucus in the Policy manual.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Policy7.7Caucuses.docx](#)

DISCUSSION

Jordan: I won't labor you with reading through the description for you as you can see it on the agenda yourselves but as alluded to earlier, there are a couple of external bodies to the GSS, the AMS Caucus and the Grad Council Caucus are both referenced directly through the policy manual but currently the manual doesn't list them as Caucuses in the GSS so Policy 7.7 is designed to address that. It's been drafted in conjunction with G&A as well as the heads of AMS and Grad Council Caucuses. Over the past few months, policy 7.7 would define these bodies as Caucuses in the GSS and the heads of these bodies as chairs, this would allow us to have formal presentations from them and make decisions about the caucuses as well as seating members. That's a general overview and you all can see the text and I'd like to have some discussion about this at this time. Unfortunately we can't vote on this today, just the discussion.

Tarique: I just also want to thank the CPC Chair for putting together this policy revision. I have one small comment, in particular on the Grad Council Caucus. I think one of the things that CPC and G&A and the other various members will be consulting on how the makeup of the Caucuses and how to determine leadership, but I strongly consider perhaps, seating the VPUAA as the chair of the Grad Council Caucus being that the VPUAA is the bridge between the internal bodies within the GSS, Graduate Council being one of them, so I think the VPUAA should be the guiding person for this Caucus being that as well, all the members of the Caucus seat on the Grad Council for Grad and Postdoc Studies so having a united voice with the VPUAA there to really drive that mandate and whatever mandate that they would be discussing would be a great idea. Just something to think about from the past VPUAA that worked with Grad Council that perhaps it's something that the policy makers should consider.

Jordan: Thank you Tarique. I will take this comment back to CPC so that we can discuss it further.

Arezo: I also have another comment. I don't know how feasible it will be but it's my suggestion and I'm going to explain why. I suggest reserving seats for senators in the Caucus because a lot of initiatives and advocacy that we want to do at the Senate level, we have to work with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and unfortunately right now, Grad Council is a very important place to discuss all these matters and right now we don't have any seats at the Grad Council and so I think, maybe reserving some seats for Senators in the Caucus will allow Senators to participate at Grad Council and work on their advocacy. So that's my suggestion as well.

Jordan: Thank you for that, just to address that quickly. Issues like that are one of the reasons that we wanted to create this policy in the first place. One doesn't even exist right now to make caucuses a part of the GSS, passing this policy will allow us to make decisions like this.

Tarique: I'm supporting what Arezo said, minus the obvious conflict of interest, I really do think there should be reserved seats for Senators on the Grad Council Caucus just to help drive the advocacy that we do with the Senate and so that we can also collaborate more with advocacy with the school of Grad and Postdoc Studies.



4.2 2020 SMART GOALS MID-TERM PROGRESS REVIEW

Group Responsible: Jin, G&A Chair

Description: Mid-Term review on 2020 SMART Goals for committees and caucuses.

Proposed Objective: Present midterm report.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [MidTermGoalReview.pptx](#)

DISCUSSION

Victoria: First of all, congratulations Jin, that was a very good first presentation. I want to acknowledge the fact that not only did Jin come as chair as Kate previously from CPC and myself were both leaving, he came when you know what, struck the world. So, I really appreciate the hard work that goes into this always, but specially in these times. And on that note, I understand that of course communications channels break and productivity dips and it's a really hard time to think about productivity right now, I know that more than anyone, but I would like to hear more about what perhaps could be done to support committees or motivate them to work on these things moving forward because while the actual SMART goals is one way that we track the accountability of committees to Council, ultimately G&A seeks to support committees in their work because they're the heart of the work that gets done in Council. I'm just asking what G&A has in mind going forward this summer and I would also like to make a suggestion to continue to the All Chairs meetings that happened last year, just one that happened, but I would love to see that happen more often because at least in my experience, it was super successful and hopefully it would be successful for all the incoming chairs. Overall great job, I'm excited and I really hope the committees will keep on doing the work to keep us all afloat. So, if Jin could comment on ways that G&A is supporting committees this summer, thanks!

Jin: Thank you Victoria. I guess one way would just be having better communications with all the committees and as I'm transitioning in, I will get better acquainted with a lot of the chairs. I would say the main thing I would really appreciate as to how we can support the rest of the committees, if you would reach out and kind of have an open dialogue as to how G&A may support committees in terms of goals as well as provide feedback and maybe looking at like the scope of things we're doing this summer.

Jackson: Hi Jin, thanks for the presentation. Thanks to the rest of your committee as this is really well done and really easy to follow. I had one question or comment, I guess. You mentioned you would be tracking key performance indicators, using meeting minutes, not sure about Grad Council but I know AMS Council does not have meeting minutes so perhaps we should talk about another way for you to actually monitor progress.

Jin: I guess this goes back to one of CPC goals, in terms of the policy that we were talking about, giving Caucus chairs honorariums but with the expectation that they would give frequent reports and submit those to Council so in terms of KPI's for Caucuses, we would be looking at the briefing reports. Hope that clarifies your question.

Jackson: Yes, that sounds perfect.



4.3 2020 REPORT ON GSS GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC PLAN ACCOUNTABILITY

Group Responsible: Jin, G&A Chair

Description: Previously intended to be presented at the AGM, G&A will present a brief report on the progress of the GSS strategic plan.

Proposed Objective: Present Strat plan progress.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [2020AGMSlides.pptx](#)

4.4 2019/20 EXECUTIVE SMART GOALS REPORT

Group Responsible: EOC

Description: Report on 2019/20 Executive SMART Goals.

Proposed Objective: Informational.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [ExecutiveGoalReview.pptx](#)

DISCUSSION

Arezo: Thank you very much to the last year executives. They did really wonderful work and it takes a lot of effort and as an HR Committee chair, I would like to really thank our full time and part time staff for all the support that they provided to our last year executives to achieve their goals.

Speaker: Any questions on the matters to note?

Arezo: I don't know who wants to answer this, but I believe one of the executives could answer. I notice that the U-Pass has been suspended and based on the email that we all got, starting June, the students have to go back on campus. I was wondering how the negotiation with U-Pass is going and how that suspension is going to be extended. I'm concerned about the Graduate Students that have to come back to work and they don't have the cheap or reasonably priced u-pass. I was wondering if any of the executives have any update or comment on this. Any information would be appreciated.

Alireza: The U-Pass is in current negotiation with the AMS and GSS, I know this will be a priority going back in for both parties not only students but TransLink as well because they want to see money coming in to fund public transit again so I don't foresee any problems. We just have to wait for a little bit. The contract is already there and everything is in place, it's just a matter of snapping back to the original contract that we had. We're meeting with AMS Executives tomorrow and I can provide further updates. I know this is an outstanding issue for many Grad Students and I'm getting lots of emails as well, so please rest assured that we're looking into it. I'd be happy to provide further comments when we do get an update. Thanks.



5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

5.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Virtual Paint Night on June 3rd- SOLD OUT

5.2 EXECUTIVES

5.2.1 President:

- GSS Transition into Online Work: Transition has been taking place online in most committees as well as GSS at large.
Thanks to all of you for making these accommodations, the staff for staying behind the scenes to make sure all is well and smooth.
- The executive team has met and agreed on collective goals for 2020-21
- We have made all financial changes needed at the GSS, Nicolas, Tayo and Kimani went to the bank to make these changes.
- HF has been on the budgets and have so far reached to all executives for possible changes, majorly, travel costs have been cut significantly.
- The office will remain closed until it is safe to open.
- May 2020 council meeting will happen online, please send in your updates.
- Coordination with UBC:
We have set up bi-weekly check ins: VPS/GSS, we are yet to re-establish other coordination.
- VPS Portfolio Strategic Planning
GSS executive team met with the VPS at an introductory meeting, the following areas are a priority to the office of the VP: Affordability, Health and mental-wellness, Communications, and students' experiences.
- GSS AGM
The AGM was put on hold because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The possibility of an online AGM will be discussed once we have gone through the May Council meeting. Following, the successful April council meeting, I think we have a clearer sense that an online AGM meeting can be effectively held.
- AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan
Met with the health and dental plan representatives and they introduced me to the basics and expectations from the GSS, I articulated our expectations as well.

5.2.2 FEEO



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5.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

- Fall Term
 - The fall term will largely take place online. An exception process will be available to run classes in person through the Provost office. This was not very well communicated to the wider community. Additional communications have started going out which provide more clarity for individual faculties and programs.
- GSS/GPS/CUPE2278 Collaboration
 - The three institutions have agreed to work collaboratively on a project to do make TAs into a fundamentally formative experience that adds to the graduate experience, as opposed to being simply employment. The project will consist of an environmental scan, analysis and recommendations.
- GSS/AMS COVID Survey Collaboration
 - The GSS VP UAA office is collaborating with the AMS VP AUA office on a joint COVID-19 survey to better understand the impact of the outbreak on students. At the time of writing this update, the survey is being constructed on Qualtrics and preparations for deployment are being made.
- Collaboration with the Vancouver School of Economics
 - Preliminary talks have taken place for a potential collaboration with the Vancouver school of Economics to run a study on the impacts of funding in times to completion and drop out rates. Additionally, we would investigate the intersectionality with having dependants. If a framework for collaboration cannot be established, we will work on this project within the VP UAA office.
- Academic Misconduct Awareness
 - There seems to be an alarming rate of lack of awareness about what constitutes academic misconduct, in particular, in relation to citations and plagiarism in academic works. A recommendation has been made to the VP Students office include a relevant module during graduate student orientation.
- Ceremonies
 - Online convocation will take place on June 17th. Details are being worked, but overall, the general aspects of the ceremony are agreed on. There will be two separate ceremonies, one for Okanagan, one for Vancouver. All programs and levels will be in the same ceremony. Special emphasis will be put on re-creating the PhD experience.
- Inclusive Washroom Consultation
 - The Equity & Inclusion office is running a consultation on inclusive washrooms on campus. The GSS has circulated the individual survey in the newsletter for individual students to provide their feedback, and also prepared a submission with the institutional response, which has been sent to the E&I office. ([InclusiveWashroomFeedback.pdf](#))

5.2.4 VP External Relations



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- Provincial Support for Students with Dependents and on-campus residents
 - Students with dependents have been one of our GSS communities whose already vulnerable situation has been exacerbated by closure of childcare spaces across the province, loss of employment and the volatile working conditions due to COVID-19. We met with ABCS Executive Directors on May 14 to articulate our asks on behalf of graduate students to the provincial government, prioritizing allotment of on-campus childcare provisions for students with dependents and financial support for on-campus student residents (to whom the BC Rental Assistance Program doesn't apply). We are meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education on Melanie Mark later in May to articulate our asks.
 - Unifying Graduate Student Societies across BC (SFU, UVIC, UNBC and UBC)
 - After meeting with SFU GSS directly in early May, we decided to hold a joint meeting of graduate student societies in late May to coordinate a response and unify the graduate student voice across the province to advocate effectively. This is a positive step towards the formation of a de-facto alliance of graduate student societies more widely.
 - Request for presentation to the BC Legislature Standing Committee on Finance in preparation for BC Budget 2021
 - I submitted a request on May 13 to make a videoconference presentation to the BC Finance Committee regarding graduate student funding and research support in the first round of consultations in June. We will hear back whether the request has been approved in late May. ABCS will also be submitting a presentation as well.
 - Executive elections at ABCS
 - In late April, Alliance of BC Students, one of the advocacy organizations we are a member of, held their semi-annual AGM coinciding with their annual elections for executives and directors of Society. On behalf of GSS, we reiterated the need to highlight the graduate student narrative and the prominent role they play socio-economic development in our discussions with the province.
 - VP External (Department 13) Budget
 - HF Committee has asked each of the departments to identify potential areas for budget cuts. The travel budget in department 13 was reduced to meet the fiscal needs of the society and allow for a balanced budget to be presented in Council in May.
 - Test run for Zoho (customer management software)
 - Due to the relationship and networking nature of external advocacy, the VP External Office has , for some time now, been in need of a robust method for keeping track of and archiving in an accessible matter our relationship, meetings and discussions with a multitude of provincial and federal stakeholders over years. The previous VP External Office with the help of the Communications Manager, has identified the customer management software Zoho as a potential solution. We decided to have a one-month test trial starting soon to test out the software.

5.2.5 VP Students

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5.3 COMMITTEES

5.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- Data Management Policy (GOAL 1)
 - The data management policy has been put on hold for now, as staffing considerations which could affect this quite a lot are likely to move forwards in the next couple of months. We will likely be merging this with the current Policy 18, as it is essentially an extension of the existing policy which covers a broader range of applications. Rather than talking about the SSS specifically, we will be making it more high-level. As part of our conversation, we talked about implementing a consent form into the SSS that allows the data to be shared as needed with graduate student members. Again, there are technical and staffing limitations that currently exist, such as not having an archivist within the GSS.
- Advocacy Advisory Panel (GOAL 2)
 - The Advocacy Advisory Panel (AAP) that is one of our SMART Goals is going to be a subcommittee of AcEx. As the subcommittee will be focus on the funding advocacy, the subcommittee is temporarily named the Funding Advocacy Research Subcommittee (FARS) for the specified term. ACEX has approved the FARS Terms of Reference (TOR) in the April meeting. The FARS subcommittee was planned to begin working at the beginning May, 2020.
- Academic Freedom & Freedom of Expression (GOAL 3)
 - The Academic Freedom & Freedom of Expression statements are currently drafted but require consultation before bringing them to council. The Equity, Diversity & Inclusion statement was passed with great support at Council a few months ago. The President suggested that we not rush these next two statements, as they may have quite a significance in coming years. AcEx will be attempting to schedule consultations for these in the coming months.

5.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- (None submitted)

5.3.3 Elections Committee

- (None submitted)

5.3.4 Executive Committee

- (None submitted)

5.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- (None submitted)



5.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- G&A reviewed SMART Goals progress of all committees, caucuses and FEOO. Thanks everyone for your hard work given the strenuous circumstances!
- G&A will be giving presentations on governance and accountability issues. This presentation was originally intended for the AGM, however due to the pandemic, we will be giving a brief progress summary.
- G&A is also currently looking into the how department reps are distributed in the university, and whether an update is needed.
- Our main priority this year is committee support. We will be reviewing the workload across everyone, supporting chair transitions by creating documentation, and assessing any gaps or issues we may have in committees. Areas of concern are high and low workloads for committees (ie. AcEx, Services).

5.3.7 House Finance Committee

- Over the last month, the HF committee has been working to create a balanced budget for approval at council. We have worked with the executives to propose a balanced budget and identify areas of the budget that have been and likely will be affected by the cover-19 pandemic. We have also had continuous discussion about the need to move funds into the Emergency Fund.

5.3.8 Human Resources

- (None submitted)

5.3.9 Services Committee

- (None submitted)

5.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- (None submitted)

5.3.11 AMS Caucus

- (None submitted)

5.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

- (None submitted)

5.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.4.1 Senators:

- (None submitted)



5.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- The Board has met on May 15th to discuss COVID. A webcast of the meeting can be found at <https://bog.ubc.ca/meeting-agenda-minutes/2020-agenda-packages-and-minutes/>. The next meetings will be on June 1st and 2nd (committees) and 19th (full Board).HYPERLINK "https://bog.ubc.ca/meeting-agenda-minutes/2020-agenda-packages-and-minutes/"
- The Board is also considering the reappointment of President Ono. Feedback on Dr. Ono is encouraged, you can fill in the survey or submit written comments here: <https://bog.ubc.ca/board-committees/presidential-reappointment-committee/>.
- Lastly, the Board would like to express our deepest thanks to all for their efforts during this unprecedented time. <https://bog.ubc.ca/message-from-the-board-of-governors/>

6 NOTICES

6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, June 18th at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Ordinary Member from Executive Oversight Committee.
- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Ordinary Member from Academic & External Affairs Committee.
- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Ordinary Member from Code & Policy Committee.
- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Ordinary Member from Elections Committee.
- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Ordinary Member from Governance & Accountability Committee.
- Kimani Karangu was unseated as Councillor from Executive Oversight Committee.
- Tayo Olarewaju was unseated as Councillor from Code & Policy Committee.
- Sarah Park was unseated as a Councillor from Academic & External Affairs Committee.
- Sarah Park was unseated as a Councillor from House Finance Committee.
- Sarah Park was unseated as a Departmental Representative for Rehabilitation Science.
- Yanuar Philip Wijaya was unseated as Departmental Representative for Chemical and Biological Engineering.
- Samantha Peng was unseated as Departmental Representative for School of Journalism.
- Samantha Peng was unseated as Councillor from Services Committee.
- Tayo Olarewaju was unseated as Councillor from Executive Oversight Committee.
- Alireza Kamyabi was unseated as AMS Representative.
- Nicholas Najy was unseated as Chair of Elections Committee.
- John Dupuis was unseated as Chair of Services Committee.

7 ADJOURNMENT

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



**GRADUATE
STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

May 2020 Council Minutes

May 21, 2020 | Online Meeting | 5:30 pm

Mover: Kimani Karangu

Second: Arezoo Alemzadeh
Mehrizi

Result: Meeting Adjourned