ATTENDANCE


Regrets: Jin Wen, Nancy Yang.

Absent: Cody Brown, Kiana Yau, Larissa Peck, Lihwen Hsu, Mollie Holmberg, Negar Ghahramani, Oluwakemi Oke, Teesha Luehr.

Quorum: 17 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at \textbf{5:54 pm}.

BIRT Meeting rules to be passed at the beginning.

- Speaking time limit: 3 minutes
- Discussion time limit: 20 minutes (Extension by majority vote)
- No limit in max # of times a person can speak on the same topic (Roberts Rule limit to 2)

2/3 votes.

\textbf{Mover:} Maria Martinez \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Seconder:} Aaron Loewen \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Result:} Motion Carried

DISCUSSION

\textbf{Arezoo:} I was wondering if the speaking time could be a bit more? Like 5 minutes? Because sometimes talking about a motion, it needs explanation and sometimes 3 minutes doesn't work. If we want to have effective conversations, we could extend to 5 minutes.

\textbf{Speaker:} Proposal to extend to 5 minutes. Anybody want to second this? If you're new and don't know what we're doing, feel free to say Point of Information. I don't see a seconder Arezoo.

\textbf{Arezoo:} That's ok. I was wondering since you said not limit in the maximum number of times a person can speak, I was wondering if we can still say “call to question”.

\textbf{Speaker:} Of course, that's a basic Roberts Rule. The Council must make a suspension of rules if you don't want to have that. This is the first time we do this, so let's get some feedback at the end and see how it works out.
VOTES:


AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi  Seconder: Abdullah Hassan  Result: Motion Carried

DISCUSSION:

Arezoo: Can you please add my presentation to the end? I have a 5-minute presentation only.

Speaker: There's a proposal to move Arezoo's presentation from 4.2 to 4.6. I need a seconder.

Arezoo: I have to disconnect from the meeting, and I don't want to conflict the timing so that's why I prefer to be at the end.

Mover: Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi  Seconder: Jordan Hamden  Result: Amendment Approved

VOTES FOR AMENDMENT:


VOTES FOR AGENDA ADOPTION:

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you everyone for your patience in sorting the technical difficulties we had at the beginning, on behalf of the GSS I would like to acknowledge that UBC Vancouver Point Grey Campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueum People. I would also 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. And having said that, I would want to reiterate what Madam Speaker has alluded to, that this meeting will continue with all of us observing our courtesy and justice for all of us. We shall be able to consider a subject that has been brought to the floor, one at a time, making sure that the rights of those who are absent, because we are just representatives, will be protected and also the minorities will be listened to. However, the will of the majority shall prevail. I therefore declare this meeting open. Thank you so much.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- June 18th, 2020

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi  Seconder: Yangfan Zhang  Result: Motion Carried

VOTES:


1.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic &amp; External Committee:</th>
<th>April 17th, 2020</th>
<th>Human Resources Committee:</th>
<th>May 20th, 2020 and May 26th, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code and Policy Committee:</td>
<td>June 26th, 2020 and July 4th, 2020</td>
<td>Services Committee:</td>
<td>June 4th, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**July 2020 Council Minutes**

July 16, 2020 | Online Meeting | 5:30 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elections Committee:</th>
<th>April 27th, 2020, May 11th, 2020 and July 1st, 2020</th>
<th>AMS Caucus:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee:</td>
<td>June 1st, 2020</td>
<td>Graduate Council:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight Committee:</td>
<td>June 19th, 2020</td>
<td>House Finance Committee:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Chairs:</td>
<td>June 12th, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**VOTES:**

**FOR (17):** Axel Hauduc, Abdullah Hassan, Erik Frieling, Aaron Loewen, Alejandra Botia, Mina Rigby Thompson, Sarah Park, Jenny Lee, Andrew Zang, Mostafa Hagar, Jonathan Summers, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Ginny Pichler, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Jordan Hamden, Thomas Smith.

## 2 SEATINGS

### 2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mohammad Reza Karimi</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delarem Shojaei</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Oncology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Glass</td>
<td>Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdul Ahad Ahmadi</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryam Tayyab</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mover:** Nicolas Romualdi  
**Seconder:** Abdullah Hassan  
**Result:** Motion Carried

**DISCUSSION**

**Nicolas:** I would just like to very quickly recognize the effort of these new members to join the GSS at these challenging times, to make sure that we continue to operate and are able to continue to help Graduate Students. It's much appreciated.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Caucus</td>
<td>Maryam Tayyab, Delaram Shojaei</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Council</td>
<td>Maryam Tayyab</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Arts Council</td>
<td>Maryam Tayyab</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Dental Planucus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mover: Jonathan Summers    Seconder: Jackson Schumacher    Result: Motion Carried

DISCUSSION

Jackson: I can motivate for AMS Caucus. For some of the new Councillors, the AMS is the Alma Mater Society so the general student organization on campus. They operate the Nest and in collaboration with the GSS the administer the U-Pass and Health and Dental as well as other important student services like food bank and SASC Service. Essentially it's a multimillion-dollar organization so because of this, having Grad Student representation on the AMS Council is extremely important and right now we have a bunch of vacancies in the Caucus so it's a great way to get involved and have a pretty big impact in Grad Wellbeing right off the bat.

Delaram: I would like to nominate myself for Grad Council.

Maryam: I was wondering as Jackson was kind enough to elaborate what being on the AMS Caucus would entail, could I get a sense of what Grad Council would entail? Because I was interested in nominating myself for one of the two things.
**Jackson:** So primarily the responsibility is attending AMS Council meetings, so they take place twice a month and are very similar to GSS meetings. AMS Caucus meets occasionally to coordinate our efforts and then as part of the AMS Council, you'll likely serve on committees there. So that's kind of the responsibilities you'll have.

**Yangfan:** The Grad Council majorly attends meetings in 3 areas, scholarships and I forgot the other but there are 3 subcommittees. Each member attends each subcommittee and bring concerns to Faculty and then bring feedback to GSS. We act as a bridge between GSS and Faculties.

**Maryam:** I would like to nominate myself for both AMS and Grad Council.

**Speaker:** Can we confirm that we only have 1 seat in Grad Council?

**Yangfan:** I think Sarah Park moved on as VP. I think there's only 1 plus my seating.

**Speaker:** So, there will be an election if we have two people.

**Delaram:** Based on what they said, I am going to change my position to AMS Caucus because it fits my interests better.

**Mahdi:** I was wondering if I could nominate my proxy for Graduate Council?

**Speaker:** Could you write your name in the chat?

**Kimani:** Madam Speaker, he's proxying for someone.

**Speaker:** That means we're going to Election for this one. Each person has 1 minute to introduce themselves and then we'll take questions.

**Maryam:** Hello everyone, I'm a new Councillor. I'm representing the school of biomedical engineering. I'm a master's student and I'm looking for roles that have a component of leadership and departmental liaison which is why I wanted to learn more about what the Grad Council position would entail and I feel like that is something that aligns with my goals very much. I haven't served in this position before so I can't draw from my past experience, but I do know that I'm not serving in other committees at the moment and I can put my full time and attention.

**Mahdi:** This is Mahdi and I'm here as a proxy for Mohammad Reza. I'm a PHD in Mechanical Engineering Department. The things I'm doing right now is the VP for Academic Department and I don't have any role here. I was wanting to share some of the experiences I have in this role.

**Nicolas:** I'd just like to say something for both candidates to ponder. I believe Maryam is a Departmental Representative while Mahdi is not. He's proxying for Reza. So, if Mahdi were to take the seat, he would also gain a seat in Council whereas Maryam already has one. I don't know if the new members are aware but if you're seated in the AMS Caucus or Grad Council, you also gain a seat in the GSS Council so something to think about. It would give Mahdi an opportunity to participate in GSS Council.

**Jonathan:** Hi there, I'd just like to say how much I appreciate the enthusiasm. There's a number of folks that are new in the meeting and they're coming in with a lot of will to join and do new things. This is really commendable. Considering we never have elections for these positions, the bar has heightened a bit, so my question is, if you're familiar with Grad Council before today's meeting or what other student government bodies are you familiar with? What's your experience with student governance at the university level generally?
Maryam: I've served as a Secretary for the Biomedical Engineering Grad Student body before (last year actually) and in this capacity I did a bunch of liaison and communication roles for organizing various events for the students like academic, professional and recreational.

Mahdi: Same as Maryam I have some experiences in holding events in academic aspects. Thanks to Nicolas, I appreciate the opportunity because I'm just a proxy here.

Delaram: One question I have is what other extracurriculars you have and how much time you have because once you join both Council, I feel it's slightly a bit commitment of hours during the week or during the month for meetings and whatnot. So how much time do you have and how much time are you willing to dedicate?

Mahdi: As a PHD student, in second year we have no courses so I have more free time so I'm thinking something like 7-8 hours per week is the amount that I can commit to in a proper way.

Maryam: I think this is a very important question. I'm a second year masters student and I'm working from home so to be honest, I'm looking forward to having something else on my plate because for the past couple of months I've just been doing research and I think it would be a very much welcomed brake so I would say, 6-7 hours that I'd be happy to delegate. I know that none of them will have parallel meetings.

**VOTES FOR GRAD COUNCIL:**

- Maryan 60% (14)
- Mahdi 39% (9)

**VOTES FOR EXTERNAL REPS:**


**BIRT** the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

**Yangfan Zhang** as Head for Graduate Council Caucus.

**Mover:** Yangfan Zhang  
**Seconder:**  
**Result:** Motion Carried

**DISCUSSION:**

Nicolas: Point of Information- Yangfan are you seated in Grad Council? I thought you were unseated.

Yangfan: Yes, I'm in the Grad Council.

Speaker: President can you help me out? Somebody that knows the record.
President: Yes, from the back end, Yangfan is coming back after being unseated due to technical hiccups that he explained.

Speaker: I'm checking the list. How many seats are in Grad Council?

Kimani: 6 of them.

Yangfan: I can give the list. We have Erik, Alejandra, Megha and we have a new member coming in plus me. So total of 5.

Speaker: From the record I have, you're on Grad Council.

Jordan: Point of personal information. Not sure that Caucuses formally have a recognized Chair position as laid out by the policy manual.

Yangfan: But I was chair for many months.

Jordan: I don't think it's technically called a chair position. We're currently writing a policy that will allow for Chair positions but as of now, they're just kind of heads of the Caucus.

Speaker: So, there's no formal recognition of this?

Jordan: Not yet as an official position.

Yangfan: I think I know what's going on, if I may explain. What's happening is that the 2 Caucuses both Grad Council and AMS, have chairs. What the CPC Committee has been working on and I have worked with the previous committees to work on a compensation for the 2 chair positions in these Caucuses because AMS and Grad Council are the 2 bodies in the GSS where the chairs weren't being compensated. So because of this policy change and all the responsibility that comes with it, I think the current CPC chair is finalizing it so that's why there might be this name change in the last couple of months and it could refer to what we used to call a chair, as a head during this period of transition and while they're writing the policy. So, this is the information I have from working with the previous CPC Chair on this proposal.

Speaker: Ok, I can only go by the Bylaws as published online. I'm searching for it right now but if CPC can point out the policy number eluding to this position, it could speed this process.

Jordan: Madam Speaker I'm working on it now. The policy that I believe Yangfan is referring to, will be policy 7.7 in the policy manual but has not been yet voted to be approved by Council.

Speaker: And the policy I have online is as of December 2019 and I know there's tons of policies being passed so I don't have a current copy of the policies, right?

Jordan: Yes, that is current. It's not currently up to date in the 2019 version.

Speaker: Ok CPC Chair, what is your call?
Jordan: I think the speed here is that there’s no formal name for the chair right now but as Yangfan eluded to, we have been working with the Head of Caucus. So, if we change the terminology to Head for now, it will still work and once the new policy is passed, somebody can be voted as the formal chair. The Caucus policy is up to date, it was discussed in Council a couple of times and it’s going to be brought up to Council for a vote soon.

Speaker: Ok Yangfan, according to the current policy, it’s called the Head for the Grad Council Caucus. So, President, Can I take this as a friendly amendment? It’s out of order if I call it a chair.

President: Yes, I think going with Head is better because it will reduce the confusion with the Head and Chair.

Yangfan: I’m ok with the technicality change in this transition while people are working on the policy which is a heavy task. I’m ok with it.

Jackson: I actually just have a question for Jordan. Does the AMS Caucus need an official head to be elected by Council? We currently don’t have that and are waiting for the official policy.

Jordan: Good question. You don’t officially need one the way it’s written currently, there doesn’t need to be a head of the Caucus. Once policy 7.7 is voted on, then there will be a way to elect a chair and the chair will then receive an honorarium as Yangfan was referring too. Most likely in the next Council meeting.

Speaker: President please email me the current updated policy.

Kimani: I’m on it madam speaker.

VOTES FOR AMS HEAD SEATING:


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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External</td>
<td>Abdul Ahad Ahmadi</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code &amp; Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### DISCUSSION

**Mover:** Jackson Schumacher  
**Seconder:** Abdullah Hassan  
**Result:** Motion Carried

**Speaker:** New Councillors just a reminder that all New Councillors are required by bylaws to seat in at least one committee. Any nominations or Chairs that want to talk?

**Delaram:** Point of Information. Could anybody explain the difference between Councillor and Ordinary Member?

**Speaker:** I can do that. Councillors are officially a member of this Council you're in. So, either you're a voting member or non-voting. An ordinary member is whoever is paying GSS fees so normally, any Graduate Student. Any Grad Student can seat in committees that have vacancies. Now the tradition is that if you're a Councillor, you can't take an Ordinary Member seat.

**Maryam:** I just wanted to mention that I already nominated myself for other 2 committees so I would like to withdraw my nomination for CPC.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Ordinary Member</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td>Abdul Ahad Ahmadi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mahdi Izadi</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight</td>
<td>Abdul Ahad Ahmadi</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kouther Noureddine</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability</td>
<td>Liz Mahon and Mohammad Ali Shahsavari</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td>Mohammad Reza Karimi, Delaram Shojaei</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Gillian Glass</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning Ad Hoc</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hannah: Hi everyone. I'm proxying for Gloria Mellesmoen. For this month and next month and then I will officially be replacing her in September so I would like to nominate myself for Academic and External as Councillor.

Abdul Ahad: I just wanted to update my last name to Ahmadi and I wanted to nominate myself for Academic and External as well.

Jonathan: As a member of AcExc committee, again I'm delighted by all the interest, but I'm wondering if Hannah is eligible as she's currently not a Councillor and there's currently no vacancies listed. The Chair of the committee mentioned there might be ordinary member openings, but they're not listed here. I'm worried she might not be eligible at this time.

Speaker: Is Sara stepping down?

Jonathan: No, she's our chair at the moment.

Speaker: I'm not privy to the most recent information. President I need your help.

President: We only have 1 opening in Councillor for AcEx and if you go all the way to the updates, that's where we usually put those that have been unseated and those who remain.

Speaker: I suggest next time have this information ready to answer. Since I don't know the answer.

President: Yes, Sara remains as Chair.

Speaker: Hannah, I'm sorry but there's no opening right now but so far that I know, the committee is open for non-voting members to join. Jonathan?

Jonathan: Yes, that is correct.

Speaker: Hannah is that alright? Would you like to nominate yourself for any other committee that has vacancy?

Hannah: I'd have to look into them a bit more but yes, perhaps.

Abdul Ahad: Madam Speaker, my name is spelled incorrectly. Do I need to bring it up every time I see it?

Speaker: Yes bring it up since this is a legal document and if your name is misspelled, then it's really not you.

Jordan: I would like to motivate for CPC. We will soon have more openings. As I always say, I think Code and Policy is a great way to start out if you're a new member and looking for places to go or for people looking for a new position. This is a great way to get involved in the Society and working with the different committees as we regularly collaborate with other committees as well as executives. The Committee will soon have opportunities for people to take on projects of their own and help shape the GSS by writing the Code and Policy. Come join us.

Jackson: Can I nominate Hannah and Mahdi Izadi for CPC?
Speaker: Do you accept?

Hannah: Yes, I accept.

Mahdi: Yes, thank you.

Alejandra: If you want to learn how to run an election and about societies referendums, this is the place to be at. We’re currently working on finding ways to promote student engagement too to increase voter turnout as well as working on recommendations to enhance elections cycle for the upcoming year so come join us. Can I nominate someone? May I nominate Delaram?

Speaker: Dela, do you accept?

Delaram: Hi, I want to make sure that I have time for the other 2. This is the one I was looking at. For now, I have to say no but as time goes on, I may send an email and apply for it, if that's ok. Thank you for the recommendation.

Tayo: EOC basically encourages executives and helps them achieve their goals as well as holding them accountable and looking at ways to support them. We currently have spaces for both Councillors and Ordinary Members so new members are welcome.

Jenny: Our Committee chair was not able to attend today so I will speak on his behalf. As our committee name states, we work on providing best practices in Governance with the GSS as well as oversee and support other committees to keep track of accountability. If you're interested in gaining leadership experiences or holding skills in goal setting, this is the committee to join. If you're new in the GSS, you may find G&A even more appealing as you will be able to quickly grasp the broad picture of what goes on in the GSS. Also, as a side note, if you're particularly interested in becoming an executive later on, you might be interested to know that there has been quite a few G&A members that have moved on to become executives and also two instances of members becoming the President. We're all nice people and we currently need more ordinary members to join so please consider it.

Kimani: I can motivate on behalf of HF. Thank you so much members. HF particularly deals with matters due to finances. Very important committee to join if you want to understand and gain skills on budgeting. I know all of us want to budget, not only for the Society but in our lives, and especially now that we're in a time that's very difficult, it's important to know what needs to be prioritized and this would be a skill that will help you on a very personal level. If you're interested, please join the committee. We're having a very big budget, over almost 1 million so come get experience and work closely with the FEOO. Thank you so much.

Arezoo: I'm the chair of Human Resources. So basically, the nature of Human Resources may sound boring, but it really isn't. So, HR deals with oversight of staff and a lot of staff related matters like hiring and firing or promotions and any other thing related to staff. We have a lot of interesting projects that we're working on. Some of them are finished and some underway. We work on market assessments of the salary of our staff. We also want to develop a promotion plan for our staff after certain years of service. We're looking to improve our HR manual and already found some areas to improve but a lot of discussions will be undergoing on how we want to fix certain areas. We're also working on the current supervisory structure. These 2 last goals, we will
send a survey to executives and staff (current and past) and gather information and decide on what would work best. These discussions involve a lot of analysis and we also have a lot of interview opportunities where you can learn how to present yourself as well, when having your own interviews.

**Mahdi:** Thank you so much. First of all, sorry if I created any kind of mess on the chat. I was wondering if I could nominate my friend, the person I’m proxying for, Mohammed Reza for House Finance.

**Speaker:** Does he accept? Did he accept in any form of communication with you? Does he know that you’re nominating him?

**Mahdi:** Yes, I was talking to him previously.

**Speaker:** If you’re new, don’t worry and ask questions. It took me a long time to get used to Roberts Rules.

**Gillian:** Point of clarification, it’s Gillian with a soft G. I would like to nominate myself for Human Resources.

**Tayo:** Point of order, can you clarify that Mohammad Reza is a Councillor?

**President:** Mohammad Reza was seated not long ago, in the same class as Gillian.

**Delaram:** I wanted to see if I can nominate myself for House Finance and I also have a question. Is it possible that maybe later on I apply for another committee as well? Is there a limit?

**Speaker:** No limit.

**Nicolas:** I think I’m going to echo Jonathan’s sentiment from earlier. I truly appreciate the effort from the new members but do be aware that committee meetings take time so you may be stretching yourself too thin. Fair enough you can try to join and then drop out if you feel you’ve overextended yourselves. But just as a comment, it’s easy to underestimate the amount of work this takes.

**Andrew:** I’m the Chair of Services. We focus on working on events around UBC and we try to get everyone to have fun, build a community. We work very closely with our amazing Event Planner Nicole and VP Students, Sarah, both very passionate people. If you’re interested in participating, having a say, helping out or building the community around UBC, this is the place for you. Currently we’re actually looking at a lot of changes due to the situation right now. Every year we spend a lot of time sorting out how we give the new students the best orientation experience so right now we actually have a lot to discuss and figure out because we’re transitioning a lot of that online and try to see if we can do it as safe as possible for everyone, so if you’re interested in a challenge, it’s a good time to join as well right now.

**Timothy:** Hello, I’m the chair for SPAHC. The Strat Plan is a unique opportunity within the GSS as we’re currently engaged in producing the next strategic plan. This is something that only occurs once every 5 years so if you’re interested in helping shape the direction of the GSS going forward for the next 5 years, this is one of your few opportunities to do so.

**VOTES**

2.3 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Aaron Loewen as Chair for Code and Policy Committee.

Mover: Maryam Tayyab  Seconder: Jonathan Summers  Result: Motion Carried

VOTES:


ABSTAIN (3): Delaram Shojaei, Abdul Ahad Ahmady, Aaron Loewen.

3 MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Affiliate Organization</th>
<th>Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students in Nursing Association</td>
<td>Marta Sadkowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InterVarsity Graduate Group</td>
<td>Ezequiel Hernandez</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mover: VP Students  Seconder: Abdullah Hassan  Result: Motion Carried
DISCUSSION:

Jonathan: I’d just like to know more about the InterVarsity Graduate Group.

Sarah: Great question. So, they are a group based on having discussions on events around Christian faith but their group has people from different religions, non-religious backgrounds, just to have discussions so they are based on having fruitful discussions and events to build communities in their mutual interests in faith.

VOTES:


ABSTAIN (3): Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Delaram Shojaei, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Group Responsible: Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee

Description: The Strategic Planning Committee would like to update Council on its activities and present to Council the proposed themes for the new strategic plan. There are two options being proposed for the list of themes and a vote is being planned for the August Council Meeting.

Proposed Objective: Provide update and answer questions regarding the proposed themes.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: GSSStrategicPlanningadhocCommitteeBH2.pptx, SPAHCPresentationHandout.pdf

DISCUSSION:

Gillian: Thank you for that presentation, I do remember completing the survey so I’m excited to see what was done with it. I’m curious about the themes, there are clear themes that emerged from those topics and it was very helpful visualizing to sort of see them grouped together and I also understand that when we survey people we do want them to feel that their voices were heard and that their input has been acknowledged. I’m just wondering whether or not the committee is going to be following the member data exclusively or if it’s going to be making any executives decisions and I ask this because if a 5 year plan is solely devoted to Academic and Personal wellbeing, that’s fine and also those categories intersect with certain aspects of other things so for example, equity and inclusion is a really big part of personal and academic wellbeing. Someone who is marginalized or who for whatever reason, doesn’t achieve the same level of academic and personal being for those reasons, I’m wondering how those themes are going to overlap as a first question and the second question, whether the committee will follow the survey data exclusively or if it’s going to be making its own executive decision based on what they think is best for the GSS.
Timothy: To begin with, you're absolutely right. These themes are quite broad and there's the potential for a lot of overlap. The proposed themes are those set so we got each of those areas of interest. They are identical in both sets of proposed themes; nothing will be left out. The real difference comes when and how resources are allocated so how much time is spent on each of these themes. The committee has taken that survey data and what we've presented here for Council to make the choice as to what will be included. There was a bit of executive decisions on our part in which areas of interest we would present to Society members in the survey and how we've grouped them but it's Council's action to select the themes. I hope this answers your question.

Nicolas: Thank you for all the work that is going into this. What came to me from the presentation is, has any thought been put into, if we had a list of themes and then we ranked them and grouped them, at the end of the day did we do any actual prioritization. Because if we do everything, we also run the risk of doing nothing and we have to be resource conscious in terms of what it is that we want to pursue. And in a similar note of what was being said before, I appreciate the member at large input a lot but for example, advocacy is something that is ranking very high, but I don't know if it's generally understood how much GSS governance can make a difference for effective or ineffective advocacy. So, something that is maybe not showing as priority, is something that is really supporting high priority. So, what I'm saying is that I'm not sure if I'm entirely convinced about this grouping. I'm happy Timothy to talk to you on another time and also congratulations on your graduation or your soon-to-be graduation.

Timothy: Thank you very much. I'm happy to chat. The Strat Plan Committee will be having another meeting, and this is open to any member so if you'd like to participate on that, you're encourage to attend. As far as priorities go, the point of the survey was to find out what the priorities of Society member were and to translate that to Council. We also spoke with executive members and they brought up the point that Governance is very important. And if we're going solely of the survey data, we probably could've just removed governance entirely from the plan but for different forms of engagement we recognize that the strategic plan needs governance in there. While I presented the themes showing priorities, those overarching themes could be jumbled into any order. Where priority is reflected is in which areas of interest are grouped under each theme. And I appreciate if you or any Councillor are open to disagree on how we organize them but our justification for providing all of them is that we recognize that each of these areas are important and will need some place within a Strategic Plan and those areas of interest are just meant to guide the next steps which is choosing priorities. We still have 2 phases where we get into the detail of what will be included and then we've used the survey to reflect why we've grouped the areas of interest as shown.

Nicolas: Point of information, the new rules adopted, are we allowed supplementals or not?

Speaker: No, so I'll put your name down and Jonathan is next.

Jonathan: Madam Speaker I'll cede my time.

Nicolas: Just very briefly, thank you Timothy for your answer. Please don't take my comments as anything other than my honest opinion. You don't need to agree with me, it's just my input at this point.

Timothy: Noted, thank you Nicolas.

4.2 SUMMER TRANSIT SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Group Responsible: VP External
Description: Inform council about the new Transit Subsidy Program available for graduate students and explain how the GSS is going forward on ensuring students have access to affordable transportation during COVID-19.

Proposed Objective: Inform and explain Council about the new Transit Subsidy Program.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: Transit Subsidy AMS

DISCUSSION:
Speaker: Just as a comment, I am timing 20 minutes for discussions. At the end of the 20 mins, I'll let you know, and you can feel free to try to extend it as this is your right.

4.3 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR JUNE 2020

Group Responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer
Proposed Objective: Update on GSS revenues and expenditures in June 2020.
Time: 15 minutes

DISCUSSION:
Alireza: Thank you Tayo for the presentation. I just had a small correction to offer on my slide. It says the spending was on dues and licenses for CASA, it was ABCS. Just to make a quick clarification.

Arezoo: Actually, Alireza answered my questions. I was concerned since we had already voted that we were not going to be members of CASA.

Jonathan: Thanks, Tayo for walking us through the numbers again. I just had a question about slide 2 and the variance column. It's good to see that for the most part we're well under budget so kudos to all the execs for being frugal. I just wanted to ask about the variance column since I don't quite understand for example for the investment fund, it looks like the variance is more than $1303 and same for the total.

Tayo: Yes, sorry. That is my mistake. I recently just changed the investment fund. I just got a message from the bank that we need to make a correction to that, and I forgot to change the details. So, thank you and good catch. We should have a variance of over 40k on that goal.

4.4 2020-21 EXECUTIVES' GOALS

Group Responsible: Executive Oversight Committee
Description: 2020-21 Executives' Goals.
Time: 15 minutes
Supporting Documents: 2020-21ExecutiveGoals.pptx

DISCUSSION:

Arezoo: Thank you for your presentation. I have one suggestion for you because always when EOC presents the goals, the mention which part of the Strat Plan the goal is aligned to. For example, are those goals assigned to a part of the specific position, for example 2.3. I think this is essential. I have some questions with regards to VPUAA and VP Students goals. Regarding VPUAA goals I saw that there have been some goals related to Grad Student life building as well as Health and Dental plan. To my understanding those are mainly duties of the President not VPUAA so I would appreciate if Nicolas or President could explain this shift. And also with regards to VP Students, do any of her goals could be to increase student engagement as well as I saw that the goal is to simplify the AO application, I was wondering if she could elaborate and explain more of what she means because AO application is not, as a former VP Students, complicated at all. Those are my questions.

Tayo: Your first question was about the Life Building which appears that it should be in the portfolio of the President and being done by the VPUAA. This year the executive committee has actually been working very closely and it's something that EOC is glad to see. The Life Building originally was under the VPUAA goal was stated as a collaborative goal between the VPUAA and the President so in other words, even though it's currently spearheaded by the VPUAA, it's actually a goal that its jointly undertaking by both parties. Similar to archiving which comes under the President goal but its working closely with the VPUAA to attain that goal. In other words, to clarify, the Life Building and other matters are being undertaken jointly and working collaborative between the President and VPUAA so that's currently what's happening. Secondly, what EOC tries to do here is to give a summary of the goals. So, we don't go into the details. The question regarding the VP Student goal, if she is looking at any means to improve engagement, I think that comes under her 3rd goal as part of Social media engagement and she wants to do this by offering more incentives to encourage students and other members of GSS to join the GSS and follow Social media accounts. Her goal regarding renewal of AO process, it's basically to simplify it. My understanding is in prior yes, an AO that has been registered, has to go through the same process again.

Speaker: Tayo your 3 minutes are up. Do you have anything to wrap up?

Tayo: Just want to know if the question has been answered for Arezoo?

Arezoo: Yes, with regarding to VPUAA it has. But in regard to VP Students, I still need to make some clarifications. When I say increasing engagement, I don't mean Social media. Increasing engagement in our events and programs and I should also add that social media engagement was the goal of the previous VP Student and it wasn't achieved. Mainly because this is not the job of VP Student. Social media engagement is the job of the marketing and communications office. I don't recognize this as a VP Student duty. That's my understanding and point I wanted to bring up.

Speaker: Trying not to have these back and forth. If you don't agree with my ruling, people can challenge me. I'll move on to Sarah.

Sarah: Thank you for your question. Regarding the Strat Plan first, the goal that I submitted to EOC, I did refer to mainly goal D and priority 2.2 in the Strat Plan and this is for the AO Process. And just to clarify in the AO renewal process, kind of to continue of what Tayo was saying, is that in the current renewal process they fill the same AO application just to renew it but my motivation for this is that if AO's have been a part of the GSS for a long time, they don't need to keep telling us the same reason of why and when they exist, all of that. The main information we need is the contact info, and this is the simplification I was talking about. And then regarding social media, totally, social media management
not directly part of the role but a form of engagement that I think is, in my opinion, underutilized and I think it's a good place to really grow for the upcoming year especially in light of COVID-19 and I know we can't control the number of followers we have to kind of dig deeper in the SMART goal itself, I specify that the measurements based on the number of initiatives that I do to kind of garner the engagement and not the actual objective number itself. I know you might have a lot more questions because you were a part of the role so I would love to take it offline to discuss in person and I can extend the document I sent to you. Let me know if you have any other questions.

4.5 GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE RECAP & UPDATE

**Group Responsible:** VP University & Academic Affairs

**Description:** Description on of the Graduate Student Life Centre Project, progress so far, new updates and plans moving forward.

**Proposed Objective:** Update councillors on the status of the GLC project.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** GLCUpdate.pptx

**DISCUSSION:**

**Arezoo:** Thank you Nicolas for the presentation. I have 2 questions. I was wondering because the building proposal based on student needs, I was wondering if having showers was indicated as one of the student needs and also wondering that I'm very glad that 1.2M has been allocated but due to COVID-19, might the University not fund us for a while, we might start construction but then we have to stop it. I was wondering if this has been discussed and how much the total cost is of making this building?

**Nicolas:** So, the question about the showers. They are aligned with 2 matters. First a need for workout rooms that would benefit students. The shower room is one of the aspects that we would do re-consultation on and may be decided that they don't go there. It's just currently feasible and suggested that we have them as there's still one stage of consultation left. And also proposed to align with UBC Sustainable goals to facilitate students who transit to campus on bikes and other means that, not sure how to put this, make you sweat and you need a space where you can shower and change so you can go through your day. So those are the needs that that particular aspect is tackling. In terms of securing funding, it's a big question. I'm confident that we will continue to receive support with this project. I think that being a successful advocate in these financial matters and am confident that we will continue to be so.

**Jackson:** First of, thanks for all the work on this. This is a really exciting project. I was just wondering that if we're moving the staff and executive offices out of the Koerner's House, where will they be located after this renovation is completed.

**Nicolas:** I need to answer that question in camera. Very quickly, we can move to go in camera or Jackson, I can answer outside of Council.

**Speaker:** I need a seconder to go in camera and it will be a 2/3 vote. For new Councillors, going in camera is a special resolution because it takes away some rights from the member and also whatever happens in camera, can't be communicated outside. It's your legal duty to keep this in this room and the recording will also stop once we go into camera.
Kimani: Thank you Madam Speaker. I just wanted to echo in whatever our very able VPUAA was alluding to and as of this morning I had a meeting regarding the GLC and according to the situation, one of the issues that was mentioned before was the elevator in the building but according to the current situation is that the issue has been ok’d so the elevator can be changed. However, it will be an expensive situation but by the end of the day, it needs to be changed. That’s all I wanted to mention.

**VOTES TO GO IN CAMERA:**

**FOR (14):** Axel Hauduc, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Abdullah Hassan, Sarah Park, Jenny Lee, Alejandra Botia, Hannah Green (Proxy for Gloria Mellesmoen), Rio Picollo, Mostafa Hagar, Alireza Kamyabi Jordan Hamden, Delaram Shojaei, Jackson Schumacher, Aaron Loewen.

**ABSTAIN (1):** Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

**VOTES TO MOVE OUT OF CAMERA:**

**AGAINST (14):** Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Sarah Park, Kimani Karangu, Abdullah Hassan, Delaram Shojaei, Thomas Smith, Alejandra Botia, Mostafa Hagar, Rio Picollo, Jenny Lee, Aaron Loewen, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Alireza Kamyabi.

**ABSTAIN (2):** Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Maryam Tayyab.

4.6 **COVID-19 ADVOCACY FOR GRAD STUDENTS**

**Group Responsible:** Senator (Arezoo)

**Description:** Student Senators' Caucus is undertaking initiatives for COVID-19 advocacy. Arezoo has been selected as the lead to advocate for Graduate Student issues on behalf of the student Senators' Caucus.

**Proposed Objective:** Inform GSS Council of this initiative and seek their input.

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** none

**DISCUSSION:**

**Speaker:** Arezoo, you have 5 seconds left. Do you need to ask for extension?

**Arezoo:** Can I extend for 2 minutes?
Mostafa: I just have 2 questions. First of all, I want to bring this to the Chemistry Society so I was wondering when you would want this feedback exactly?

Arezoo: It could be from tonight to next Wednesday noon because Caucus starts at 2:00 pm on Wednesday. Sorry for the short notice.

Mostafa: The main thing I'm wondering is if you think, would issues with TA'ing fall within this or would this be something to bring up with the TA union instead of the GSS.

Arezoo: Honestly, I wouldn't know since I'm not a TA and I'm not aware of the TA hassle but that's the reason why I'm reaching out to you guys, if you have problems with TA'ing, I can bring that to the relevant parties who are Provost and Senate for sure. But also, I should inform you, within Senate we are limited in many ways because Senate is mostly for developing policy, so most of this advocacy, I have to go and reach out and of behalf of the Caucus reach out to Provost. We still, for example, I'm in the teaching and learning committee in Senate which is a very good committee to discuss a lot of these hassles, like TA'ship and Supervisor Relationship during COVID, but mostly it would be through the Provost office.

Thomas: Yes, I was just curious about the timeline but that was answered.

Arezoo: I would like to add about the timeline, that the first draft they have to present is for the next Caucus but this is a developing case and I'm saying that if you want your concern to appear in the next meeting, it should be by Wednesday but you're more than welcome to come to me and I can add your concern for our next meeting. I don't even have to wait for the next meeting since we have a group that works for COVID-19 issues, so this is ongoing. Even if you can't reach out to me by next Wednesday, let me know after that. I can add this information later and gather and reach out to Provost. It might take 2-3 weeks so don't worry about the timing.

Alireza: Thank you Arezoo for the update. I think it's commendable that you're reaching out to Councillors and seeking Council input. That is very important for our external representatives. I would just like to say that, it's very important that you provide context and specify the issues that you'd like to get feedback on. The oral update helps but it certainly wouldn't facilitate having a fruitful discussion on any of the important issues. Many Councillors may be unaware of the specific duties that Senate has vs. Board of governors. The reasons I'm bringing this up is because I feel that it's a good place to start getting Council more familiar with Senate, is the Senate updates in the agenda. I've noticed that the updates weren't provided this time, I'm sure it's due to business but please if you can provide some more context, perhaps if you have surveys or specific issues that you'd like to get input on, I'd urge you to include it in the updates and I'd be more than happy to help.

Tarique: I thought that that was a question. I was just going to say that Senate is not currently meeting in the summer so you will not be receiving any updates related to Senate until the meetings resume which is going to be in September.

Speaker: Just to clarify, for everyone who is making a comment or question, when I'm not sure, if you say comment, then that means that the speaker may not respond. If you say question, then you're requesting for a response.
Arezoo: Tarique explained somehow. We will be having meetings, while we didn't have any meetings to update the Council of, I should also mention that we as Senators, we can't give you updates until we're involved with the Committee and I haven't yet been invited to the committee so there's a reason, it's not about the business, I'm always busy but the reason is that there wasn't a Senate meeting however there will be. Also, we just joined in April and our seating in the committee happened in May, we have not been really invited to the committee that I'm assigned to. Also, there's lots of motions on the floor and in the past that I've participated, none of them have been relevant to grad Students so I really had nothing relevant to provide updates on. But thank you Alireza for raising your concern. I appreciate it.

5  MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

DISCUSSION

Arezoo: Thank you. After last meeting I sent some questions in a pdf file with regards to last Council. I haven't heard back any answer for those questions that I forwarded to executives and other members. I was wondering if they have the answers by now for those questions and concerns.

Kimani: The issue the member raised are being dealt within individual committees. EOC, Executive and G&A committee are looking at them and when they're done, comprehensive answers will be given to the member.

Speaker: I can assure you that I've been bugged for addressing that letter, Arezoo, and I'm not paid to do this.

Nicolas: I'm going to embody a former role of mine from a long time ago when I was chair G&A and I'm going to ask Committees who have not been submitting updates, why they haven't been submitting them. I understand the rational presented for Senate but that doesn't apply to committees and caucuses and actually, going through the minutes from previous meetings and there's committees who have been systematically poor at providing updates, so I'd like to hear from the Chairs if they're present and some committee members that could explain why updates are not being submitted to Council.

Speaker: Nicolas can you point to a certain committee or am I going to call every single committee who did not submit?

Nicolas: Well, I'm going to ask like I used to when I was chair of G&A, so I'm going to ask an update of why every committee that didn't submit an update for this meeting, has not done so.

Speaker: Ok, I'm going to ask Committee by Committee then.

Kimani: AcEx committee is Sara who is the Chair person and she's not here. Maybe we proceed to the next committee and form a statement for them to respond to, those who are not here.

Jordan (for CPC): I can make this brief. This was just a complete oversight on my behalf. My apologies everybody.
Mostafa (for Elections): I’m on Election committee but I’m not the chair. I think it’s just an oversight. Everyone on the committee is fairly new and I wasn't aware we had to do that. I'll make sure we submit updates next time.

Arezoo (for HR): The reason why we don't provide updates is because we provide the minutes and I believe that everyone as Councillor should read them. So, the reason is that there's a different between executives and committees because executives you have not much other way with knowing what's going on. With committees we're submitting our minutes, and everyone should read them since they approve them.

Speaker: Arezoo you have to stay on point for Human Resources and not touch on executives because that's off topic.

Arezoo: That's what I'm saying. The reason is that I always thought that since we provided the minutes and everyone should theoretically read them, that it gives them information of what we're doing. But for next meeting, I'll try to provide them as well.

Kimani: Andrew was here but I believe when we went in-camera, he wasn't able to come back.

Jackson (for SPACH): I can speak for this. We have been meeting and I think we have approved some minutes so it's probably just an issue with workload given the presentation or something, but I can talk to Timothy about getting these out.

Jackson (for AMS Caucus): I guess I can take this one as well. I have a question and I'm not sure, is there a precedent for AMS Caucus to submit updates? Not sure if this was something that Arash did.

Kimani: Madam Speaker, if I may respond. Yes, all committees whether seating caucuses or ad hocs, usually the chair or head provide some highlights on whatever they're doing, is usually sufficient for this.

Jackson: Ok, in that case it was miscommunication and we can start giving updates on future meetings.

Speaker: Nicolas, I went through the whole list. Did that satisfy your question?

Nicolas: Yes, it does answer my question.

Kimani: To make sure we have consistency in this, we started having monthly meetings with all committee chairs and I want to mention to all committee chairs that are here, that it's important that they come to that meeting so that at least we can address some of these issues. Those who have come and specially, because most of them are new chairs, they have highlighted the importance of this meeting so moving forward, Mr. VPUAA, we will make sure that we address this issue with all chairs during the meeting.

Abdul Ahad: Just wanted to give a heads up regarding my name in the notices of unseating.

Speaker: Ok this would be point of personal privilege, just for future information. Sorry I have to use your example, to teach other new Councillors.
5.2 EXECUTIVES

5.2.1 President:

- Together with the VPUAA, we held a very successful meeting with the AMS President and VP AUA. The meeting yielded $1.2M for GSS GLC project and further $20,000 for the GSS GSFA. This agreement to advance the capital project at the GSS was later presented to the VP Students in a separate but joint meeting with both teams present.
- Held a joint meeting with VPS, AMS to discuss further utilization of the funds, AMS will as well utilize portion of the funds on capital projects.
- Held meeting with the GSS full time staff to come up with a plan that will see a safe opening of the GSS center. The office will open in phases, (I’m holding weekly meetings with the staff on this matter)
- Held consultation meeting with the Stratplan chair about the upcoming GSS strategic plan 2021-2025
- Invited for a safety App consultation by the UBC’s Director, Emergency Management safety & Risk Services. For more information please see https://www.apparmor.com/
- Invited for consultations and decision making on proposals submitted at the Student Wellbeing Fund as an Oversight Committee member.
- Together with the VPUAA, invited to participate in VPS communications Audit interview.
- In joint efforts, participated in a workshop on GSS company webinar. The objective of the webinar was to establish some cultural aspects that could be utilised to benefit the GSS now and in the future. This was attended by both the Executives and full-time staff.
- Held the newly established all committee chairs meeting.

5.2.2 FEOO

- In the month of June, the FEOO supervised the executive goals review process and created a template document for reporting monthly financial updates to the Council.

5.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

- **General Teaching Space (GTS) Safety Plan**
  - The GTS safety plan has been approved for all general use classroom spaces and is posted on the Learning Spaces website: learningspaces.ubc.ca (click on “COVID-19 Safety Plan”). All instructors will be advised to review the plan before using any GTS classrooms. Additionally, the GTS safety plan will be referenced as part of any department safety plan that includes in-person teaching or recording in GTS classrooms.
- **Instructor Recording and Livestreaming Spaces**
  - Following discussions at the June 10th Learning Spaces Advisory Committee (LSAC) meeting, which the VP UAA now has membership in, classrooms will be made available for instructor recording and livestreaming sessions over the summer, starting July 13 and continuing into the fall.
Select classrooms (10 rooms across campus, with the ability to scale up based on demand) will be available for instructor recording or livestream bookings. Instructors may request a time to record or livestream course content in a classroom by completing the Scheduling Services room booking request form. Booking requests can be submitted and recording/streaming sessions will be available starting Monday, July 13. Access into buildings will be with UBC cards (programmed by the Learning Spaces team once appointments have been confirmed) as most buildings remain closed to the public. Information about the recording spaces is also available on our website: https://learningspaces.ubc.ca/recording-and-livestreaming-classrooms

• COVID-19 Survey
  - The survey has finalized with 1652 responses total (1300 fully complete, 352 partial response). This response rate is double our previous responses for the GSS-SSS, showing that there are indeed advantages in consolidating research efforts with the AMS and UBC. Conversation will continue with the AMS about folding the SSS and the AES together. The survey results will be analyzed and presented to Council in August.

• GSFA Funding
  - UBC has agreed, by recommendation of the AMS and the GSS, to allocate 20k to the GSS GSFA program. This will relieve some of the financial pressure on the GSS while ensuring that the GSFA can continue to operate for this fiscal year.

5.2.4 VP External

• UPass
  - In a collaborative effort between the GSS and AMS VPX Offices, we have now set up the 2020 Transit Subsidy Program to allow for students that use public transit to receive partial credit when they purchase a Translink monthly pass this summer. Through this program, eligible students would end up paying the same amount for a Monthly Pass as they would have for the UPass ($42.50), and the difference would be subsidized by the AMS/GSS/UBC as credit towards their tuition. Due to limited resources, eligibility is determined based on financial need. The application form is now available online as of Wednesday July 8: https://www.ams.ubc.ca/transit-subsidy-form-2020/.
  - The GSS has secured a seat in the UPass Advisory Committee where negotiations with Translink will take place to ensure students have access to affordable transportation in fall 2020.

• Uniting BC Graduate Student Societies
  - Currently, there is no advocacy alliance of graduate student societies across BC or Canada (except for ThinkGrad and CAGS). Even though graduate students play an outsized in socioeconomic development of society, the lack coordination and advocacy alliance amongst graduate student societies has led to inadequate lobbying representation at the provincial and federal levels. Therefore, there is a real need for forming cohesive alliance of graduate student societies to campaign at the provincial and federal levels with a unified voice that will dramatically increase our advocacy impact from where it is now. This year, the GSS VPX Office will make a substantial effort to bring together graduate student societies together from various PSI to advocate with a unified front at the provincial and federal levels.
• We’ll be meeting with representatives from UNBC, UVIC and SFU for the second time this year later this month to coordinate with on our first Joint Letter to BC Ministry of Advanced Education.

• **CRM Software and strategies for tracking and recording stakeholder relations**
  o The GSS VPX Office is in need of guidelines for effective stakeholder relations management to ensure that the GSS’s working relationship between various external organizations, offices, individuals are organized, recorded, tracked and archived for present and future advocacy campaigns. Currently, very little exists in terms of effective relations management.
  o Working with the Policy Assistant and Marketing and Communications Director, the VPX Office is developing a final solution to allow for proper record keeping and archiving of stakeholder relations.

• **2021 BC Budget Submission - advocacy for BC Graduate Scholarship and needs-based grant for graduate students**
  o The VPX Office was able to secure a presentation to the BC Legislature’s Finance & Governance Committee in the 2021 BC Budget Consultation process to bring attention to the important role that graduate students have and continue to play during and after COVID-19. The GSS recommendations for the 2021 BC Budget included:
    1. Enhancing graduate enrollment in BC by making the BC Graduate Scholarship a permanent fixture of the funding ecosystem for advanced education.
    2. Ensuring that BC retains its highly-skilled graduate workforce to help solve arising challenges by increasing investments in the research and innovation sector of the economy.
    3. Reducing financial barriers to graduate education by implementing needs-based grant program for graduate students.
  o Our presentation to the BC Legislature’s Standing Committee on Finance & Governance on Friday, June 19th 2PM can be viewed online:
    1. Transcribed: [https://www.leg.bc.ca/documents-data/committees-transcripts/20200619pm-Finance-Victoria-Blues](https://www.leg.bc.ca/documents-data/committees-transcripts/20200619pm-Finance-Victoria-Blues)
    2. Audio [go to June 19, 2:10PM]: [https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/committees/41stparliament-5thsession-fgs/calendar#past](https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/committees/41stparliament-5thsession-fgs/calendar#past)
    3. Written Submission: Submitted to Council as supplementary material
  o This project was undertaken as part of VPX SMART Goal #4. This SMART Goal is now complete. I’d like to thanks our Policy Assistant, Mimi, and our Communications and Marketing Director, Ben, for their great help. They were instrumental in bringing about GSS's first-ever submission for BC Budget.

• **AcEx Advocacy Panel**
  o The Advocacy Panel was an important initiative introduced by the former VP AUA and AcEx Committee. Due to the short time available, it was not possible to inaugurate the Advocacy Panel before their term came to a close. There is still work to be done in establishing the Advocacy Panel as a working arm of the Advocacy Office. As such, it will be a SMART Goal of the 2020/21 VPX Office to establish the Advocacy Panel as a fixture in the GSS Advocacy Office and create a practical guideline for its work in the future.
The VPX Office is working on launching the Advocacy Panel with a new topic for research “Contribution of Graduate Education to the Public Good”.

## 5.2.5 VP Students

- Coordinating with G+PS for Orientations – main collaborations include “Thriving in Grad School” live virtual panels and videos.
- Finalizing list of events for Orientations with Nicole – up on the Orientation website now.
- Finalized summer “events” and will start organizing Term 1 events.
- Strategizing ways to support graduate students specifically with Physical Activity Committee for the upcoming year.
- Met with UBC Athletics & Recreation to discuss collaborations to especially support graduate students with families.
- Met with Jacqui Brinkman for collaboration possibilities in a virtual Term 1 and any gaps for student support.
- Working on developing new funding opportunities for students to apply to.
- Working with GPDN to host a Virtual Career Week in the fall (October/November 2020).
- Developing a proposal for business partnerships and sponsorships with Vivian.
- Weekly meetings with Director of Student Engagement (Amandeep).
- Collaborating with UBC Centre for Community Engaged Learning to raise awareness about the resource for graduate students and looking into creating an interdisciplinary funding/initiative.

## 5.3 COMMITTEES

### 5.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- (none submitted)

### 5.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- (none submitted)

### 5.3.3 Elections Committee

- (none submitted)

### 5.3.4 Executive Committee

- Organised and held a joint social meeting with the entire AMS executives at the Nest, next will happen at the GSS centre.
- Discussion with the G+PS on Tuition, admission, GLC and racial discrimination were held in a joint meeting. Executives, GM and Deans office G+PS
5.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- EOC reviewed executives' goals, discussed issues raised by a Councillor regarding executives' advocacy and use of staff members in meetings with university administration, and deliberated on one of our SMART goals.

5.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- G&A determined that Council is missing a large proportion of department representatives and will give a presentation on this once we verify our calculations and obtain more information.
- G&A is discussing creating the ToR for an ad-hoc committee to promote more inclusivity and increase minority representation within GSS; talks are currently ongoing.
- G&A finalized the “GSS Chair Transition Guide” and will be sending this out to committees soon.
- G&A consulted with counselors on methods of improving how committee/ exec updates work in council, as well as discussed concerns regarding the culture of council.

5.3.7 House Finance Committee

- The House Finance committee has primarily been working on assessing the financial health of the Society during these uncertain times. We have been evaluating the monthly actuals to determine our revenue losses and savings and to predict future revenue losses. We have been working with the GM who will work with UBC to try to negotiate a rent reduction for the GSS. We have also been inquiring about whether or not the GSS should accrue a loan from the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) government loan program. Lastly, the committee has been working on updating the Society Booking Policy, as it is out of date.

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 June committees’ cycle was completed (documents here), which meant that we discussed a number of topics including:
  - President Ono made a number of commitments to accelerating and intensifying efforts to tackle racism and injustice on our campus, including strengthening some of the commitments in the inclusion action plan.
  - Approving the revisions to SC17 (sexual assault/misconduct).
  - Receiving updates on COVID impacts in the fall, on graduate students + post-docs, on what online learning will look like.
  - Discussed annual reports including the employment equity report and the student financial aid report.
  - Discussed definitions and approaches to divestment.
  - Received a presentation from the new senior advisor on academic freedom.
  - And many more items. Full dockets, agendas, and webcasts can be found on bog.ubc.ca.
- Michael Korenberg has resigned as Chair of the UBC Board of Governors due to his online behavior and remarks he gave in subsequent interviews. A statement from the Interim Chair Sandra Cawley can be found here. The Board is in the process of having conversations around how we change our training, orientations, and governance structures both within the Board and across the University to address racism at the University, especially anti-Black racism.
- We are also welcoming our new chancellor, The Honourable Steven Point, joining UBC on July 1st. We thank Chancellor Lindsay Gordon for his service over the past 6 years.
- Lastly, the Board is having a special finance committee meeting on July 20th and full Board on July 27th to discuss the budget, as the normal process where we would have approved the budget in April was delayed due to wanting a firmer understanding of the COVID implications. More information will be posted at bog.ubc.ca closer to the date.

6 NOTICES

6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, August 20th at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS
- Skicy Liu was unseated as Departmental Representative for Forestry.
July 2020 Council Minutes

July 16, 2020 | Online Meeting | 5:30 pm

- Skicy Liu was unseated as Councillor from Services Committee.
- Pouya Rezaeinia was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
- Yangfan Zhang was unseated as Chair of Graduate Council Caucus.
- Megha Kalia was unseated from Graduate Council Caucus.
- Airu Ji was unseated as Departmental Representative for Wood Science.
- Josef Garen was unseated as Departmental Representative for Botany.
- Raphael Debert was unseated as Departmental Representative for Anthropology.
- John Dupuis was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
- Judith Valerie Engel was unseated as Departmental Representative for School of Music.
- Jordan Hamden was unseated as Departmental Representative for Zoology.
- Jordan Hamden was unseated as Chair of the Code and Policy Committee.
- Maryam Tayyab was unseated as Ordinary Member from Governance and Accountability Committee.
- Abdul Ahad Ahmadi was unseated as Ordinary Member from Elections Committee.
- Abdul Ahad Ahmadi was unseated as Ordinary Member from Executive Oversight Committee.

7 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Mover: Kimani Karangu  Seconded: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi  Result: Meeting Adjourned