



ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Abdullah Hassan, Alejandra Botia, Alireza Kamyabi, Alison McClean, Andrew Zhang, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Axel Hauduc, Daniel He, Delarem Shojaei, Erik Frieling, Gillian Glass, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Kimani Karangu, Lihwen Hsu, Maria Jose Martinez, Maryam Tayyab, Max Holmes, Michael Doerksen (Proxy for Arwa Nemir), Mohammad Reza Karimi, Mostafa Hagar, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Oluwakemi Oku, Peter Grant (AO Rep), Sarah Park, Sara Hosseinirad, Sofie McComb, Tayo Olarewaju, Yangfan Zhang.

Regrets: Jonathan Turcotte-Summers, Gloria Mellesmoen, Ginny Pichler, Nancy Yang.

Absent: Cody Brown, Mina Rigby-Thompson, Negar Ghahramani, Rio Picollo, Tarique Benbow, Thomas Smith.

Quorum: 17 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:45 pm**.

BIRT Council adopts special orders as follows:

- Each member has 3 minutes to speak at each speaking term
- Each member may speak more than twice for each item

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Second: Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Since we talked about this before and the last item is not contentious, it's suspending the RROO as per the limit of 2 minutes of speaking time, I presume this is not going to be controversial. I'm going to ask for any opposed to this. Hearing none, I'll consider this motion as carried.

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Second: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Alireza: I'd like to amend to add an in-camera discussion item at the end of the agenda.

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Second: Maryam Tayyab

Result: Carried



Speaker: Any discussion on this item?

Alireza: I can provide a very short explanation. The item is regarding the U-Pass.

Speaker: Anybody oppose? Seeing none, this agenda item is added. Any further amendment?

VOTES

FOR (18): Axel Hauduc, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Sarah Park, Aaron Loewen, Erik Frieling, Jackson Schumacher, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Maria Jose Martinez, Gillian Glass, Jin Wen, Lihwen Hsu, Maryam Tayyab, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Nevena Rebic, Alejandra Botia, Alireza Kamyabi, Jenny Lee.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you everyone for coming. On behalf of the UBC GSS, I would like to acknowledge that UBC's Vancouver Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam 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 where you come from. I therefore declare this meeting open for fruitful discussions. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for pointing out the RROO and I would want to imagine that people are going to adhere to the timing. Today we have a few presentations and each presentation is given a maximum of time, and we will be strict on this. Thank you so much.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

Speaker: When we meet in person the tradition is that we go around the room and introduce ourselves. Instead I put people in the spot at the start and let them introduce themselves before the meeting started so we're skipping this one.

1 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

At the discretion of the President, the following are deemed urgent matters for Council and are presented at the beginning of Council (not exceeding 10mins):

1.1 FEOO ELECTION

WHEREAS the GSS bylaws 8.2.2 states that the Financial and Executive Oversight officer will be elected at the July council meeting and take office on August 31st and,

WHEREAS election did not happen in July council meeting and,

WHEREAS the position of the FEO officer has been advertised,



BIRT the council elect an officer in the office of the Financial and Executive Oversight.

BIFRT Temitayo Olarewaju is the only person nominated and is elected by acclamation.

Mover: Kimani Karangu

Second: Jackson
Schumacher

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Kimani: Thank you. We were supposed to have the FEOO election last month but due to technical issues we weren't able to do so. Today we have the opportunity and we advertised the position and only had 1 candidate who submitted their willingness to serve as the next FEOO and as that I wish that we move forward with this. His name is Tayo and he's the current FEOO. I wish that we ask Council to re-appoint Tayo as the next FEOO as there were no other candidates that submitted their applications.

Speaker: Any other nominations? Hearing none, I'll add Tayo's name to the motion.

VOTES

FOR (16): Aaron Loewen, Axel Hauduc, Michael Doerksen, Maryam Tayyab, Nevena Rebic, Jackson Schumacher, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Sarah Park, Oluwakemi Oke, Jenny Lee, Mostafa Hagar, Maria Jose Martinez, Alejandra Botia, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Jin Wen.

ABSTAIN (3): Kimani Karangu, Alireza Kamyabi, Nicolas Romualdi.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.2 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- July 16th, 2020

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Second: Jin Wen

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Anything to discuss with the minutes before approving them? I'm going to try something new. For minutes approval if there's no opposition, we'll just carry them through. Seeing none, this is approved.

1.3 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:



August 2020 Council Minutes

August 20, 2020 | Online Meeting | 5:30 pm

| | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Academic & External Committee: | May 14th, 2020, June 12th, 2020 & July 13th, 2020 | Human Resources Committee: | June 17th, 2020 & June 22nd, 2020 |
| Code and Policy Committee: | July 29th, 2020 | Services Committee: | July 2nd, 2020 |
| Elections Committee: | July 10th, 2020 | AMS Caucus: | |
| Executive Committee: | July 10th, 2020 | Graduate Council: | |
| Executive Oversight Committee: | June 26th, 2020 & July 2nd, 2020 | House Finance Committee: | July 8th, 2020 |
| Governance & Accountability Committee: | June 10th, 2020, June 25th, 2020 & July 23rd, 2020 | Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee: | July 9th, 2020 |
| All Chairs: | July 10th, 2020 | | |

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Seconded: Jin Wen

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION:

Speaker: Anything to discuss with the minutes distributed? Hearing none, so I'm going to be doing the same as the minutes. If there's no discussion or opposition, we'll approve them. The GSS Committee minutes are approved as distributed.

2 SEATINGS

2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

| Name | Department |
|-----------------|---|
| Alejandra Botia | Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education |
| Alison McClean | School of Population and Public Health |
| Daniel He | Experimental Medicine |
| Yundi Wang | Neuroscience |

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Seconded: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi

Result: Carried



VOTES

FOR (21): Kimani Karangu, Nicolas Romualdi, Oluwakemi Oke, Jackson Schumacher, Maryam Tayyab, Mostafa Hagar, Erik Frieling, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Nevena Rebic, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Axel Hauduc, Aaron Loewen, Jin Wen, Andrew Zang, Jenny Lee, Alireza Kamyabi, Lihwen Hsu, Maria Jose Martinez, Sarah Park.

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 | 0 |
| Graduate Council | Alejandra Botia | Representative | 2 |
| Faculty of Arts Council | | representative | 2 |
| Health and Dental Plan Caucus | | representative | 0 |

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Seconded: Abdul Ahad
Ahmadi

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Any further nominations? Hearing none, I will setup the poll.

VOTES

FOR (16): Kimani Karangu, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Axel Hauduc, Mostafa Hagar, Jin Wen, Maria Jose Martinez, Erik Frieling, Andrew Zang, Jackson Schumacher, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Jenny Lee, Lihwen Hsu, Aaron Loewen, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Alireza Kamyabi, Sarah Park.

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 | Alison McClean, Yundi Wang | Councillor | 2 |
| | Sofie McComb | Ordinary Member | 2 |
| Code & Policy | Alison McClean, Daniel He | Councillor | 2 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 2 |
| Elections | Alejandra Botia | Councillor | 2 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 3 |
| Executive Oversight | Daniel He | Councillor | 2 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 3 |
| Governance & Accountability | | Councillor | 0 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 2 |
| House Finance | | Councillor | 2 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 1 |
| Human Resources | | Councillor | 2 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 3 |
| Services | | Councillor | 1 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 3 |
| Strategic Planning Ad Hoc | | Councillor | 0 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 2 |

Mover: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi **Seconded:** Alireza Kamyabi **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Anyone wants to nominate themselves for any open seat?

Sara: I wanted to nominate Alison as Councillor for AcEx Committee.

Speaker: Alison do you accept?

Alison: Yes, I accept. Thank you.



Alireza: I'd like to nominate Yundi as Councillor for AcEx.

Speaker: Yundi do you accept?

Yundi: Yes, I do.

Speaker: If you want to nominate yourself, no need to wait for me to call your name.

Sara: I would like to nominate Daniel He as Councillor onto EOC.

Speaker: Daniel do you accept?

Daniel: Sure.

Speaker: If you're a chair and you'd like to motivate, please speak up.

Aaron: I'd like to motivate for CPC. We're welcoming new members and we're a great place to start out if you're new to the GSS. We work with all the various committees and executives to change policies and bylaws, interpret them when issues arise, and you get to learn the inner workings of the GSS as well. We have various long-term projects going on as well as short term ones for all areas so we're a good committee for anyone that's new and veteran. Join us! We'd like to have you.

Sara: I guess we're fine now but if there's any ordinary members that want to consider AcEx as a place to discuss Grad student issues and can brainstorm on ideas to see how we can advocate for students' issues. If there's any other Ordinary Member or if anyone knows anyone interested, please join. I just wanted to say I will step down from the chair position at the end of the month, so if anyone is interested in chairing the committee, please let me know.

Sarah: I would like to nominate Daniel He for Code and Policy Committee.

Speaker: Daniel do you accept?

Daniel: What does that committee do?

Aaron: We're involved in interpreting and making policies and bylaws for the GSS. We often work with other execs and committees based around issues that come up with them. In general, we do a lot of maintenance for everything so a good way to dip your toes in GSS as a whole.

Daniel: Sure, I'll give it a shot.

Alejandra: I'm just a bit confused because I'm being voted into elections. I'm stepping down as Chair, but I can motivate. If you want to join Elections, we focus on elections process and cycle so it's a really great way to learn more about this and we're also moving forward to strategizing for student engagement so that we can have more people participating in these elections and people get to know what everyone at the GSS does as well. If you want to learn more about this, please join us.

Tayo: The executive oversight committee oversees executives.



Speaker: Tayo we can barely hear you, just so you know.

Tayo: -audio cut off- I apologize, that's all basically.

Arezoo: Since executive oversight committee is responsible for evaluating the executives, I was wondering if conflict of interest between a member and an executive, has any role in the seating of certain people in that committee?

Speaker: Are you asking is there any conflict of interest of certain people seating in the committee?

Arezoo: My question is that since this committee evaluates executives, if the matter of perhaps the possible conflict of interest would play a role here with regards of who is seated and who isn't seated in the committee?

Speaker: That is true for every single committee, every single situation. The conflict of interest by definition of Roberts Rule, that is not common to everyone else in the membership, so for example, if your friend, let's use EOC as example, if you're a friend of an executive but most of the Councillors are also friends of the executive, then it doesn't count as conflict of interest. So yes, conflict to of interest applies but members have a right to seat on it. The membership has a right to vote these people in. Is this clear?

Arezoo: Yes thank you.

Jin: One correction, there's actually only 1 Ordinary member spot left in G&A.

Speaker: According to my record, it's 2. Who are the other members? I have Avery, Mohammad and 2 vacancies. Is this correct?

Jin: There's also Elizabeth and Mo, but I will follow up about this.

Speaker: You have to send it to the President, and he has to tell me what the actual list is. I go by the list that the President sends me.

Arezoo: Hi everyone, I'm the Chair of HR. In HR we are oversighting the employees and all matters related to them as well as owner of HR manual, which is a part of the GSS policy manual, so we set the rules and policies there. The project we have coming up is working on the supervisory structure at GSS as well as brining lots of changes to the HR Policy manual. We're about to conduct an extensive survey to assess our work. Aside from this, HR Meetings involve lots of things like looking at JD's, approving positions, hiring. We have 2 hiring's coming up and I always say that seating in these hiring committees teach you how to present yourself, because when you see how people present themselves, you'll get a better idea as to how to present yourself when it comes to job applications. It's actually a very exciting committee to be seated in.

Speaker: I'm going to move on and if anyone wants to nominate themselves, just let me know in the chat.

Andrew: Our committee handles events and community building that goes around UBC for Grad Students. Part of our job is Orientation which is coming up soon. We've had a few people graduate from our committee so we're happy to have anyone else come help support us. We have a lot of new stuff going on now, lots to talk



about because of the current situation around the world, so lots of interesting stuff, if you're interested, come check us out.

Jackson: The SPAHC, is developing the GSS's next strategic plan which will guide priorities for the next 5 years. So, if you consider yourself a strategic planner or just generally want to have an impactful effect in the GSS, join our committee!

Speaker: Last call for the above vacancies.

VOTES

FOR (20): Erik Frieling, Kimani Karangu, Oluwakemi Oke, Mostafa Hagar, Jin Wen, Andrew Zang, Axel Hauduc, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Maria Jose Martinez, Abdullah Hassan, Jenny Lee, Jackson Schumacher, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Nevena Rebic, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Sarah Park, Aaron Loewen, Alireza Kamyabi, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Lihwen Hsu.

2.3 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Jackson Schumacher to be seated as SPAHC Chair.

Mostafa Hagar to be seated as Elections Chair.

Mover: Lihwen Hsu

Seconded: Jin Wen

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Axel: I'd like to motivate for Jackson as chair of SPAHC. He's been a key member of SPAHC so far and important in developing the strategic plan. He brings a lot of experience to the table, so it's been a real pleasure working with him and I'd love to continue to do so with Jackson in a position of greater authority as chair of Strategic Planning.

VOTES

FOR (19): Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Andrew Zang, Alireza Kamyabi, Abdullah Hassan, Alejandra Botia, Axel Hauduc, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Oluwakemi Oke, Aaron Loewen, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Kimani Karangu, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Maria Jose Martinez, Nicolas Romualdi, Erik Frieling, Sarah Park, Lihwen Hsu.

ABSTAIN (2): Jackson Schumacher, Mostafa Hagar.



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 August 2021:

| Name of Affiliate Organization | Representative |
|--|-----------------|
| UBC Grad Student Tennis Society | Peter Grant |
| Liu Institute Network for Africa (LINA) | Joseph Ogbede |
| Counselling Psychology Student Association | Alejandra Botia |

Mover: VP Students **Seconded:** Abdullah Hassan **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Peter if you wish to speak now, and you're still here, you're welcome to.

Peter: I'm here still, not sure what I'm meant to say but if there's any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

VOTES

FOR (20): Nevena Rebic, Lihwen Hsu, Andrew Zang, Mostafa Hagar, Jackson Schumacher, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Alireza Kamyabi, Alison McClean, Axel Hauduc, Jin Wen, Gillian Glass, Kimani Karangu, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Aaron Loewen, Erik Frieling, Daniel He, Abdullah Hassan, Jenny Lee, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Sarah Park.

3.2 MOTION TO AMEND MINUTES

WHEREAS Matthew Shannon attended council meeting as a proxy on August 2019, but his name was never captured on the register and,

WHEREAS the records indicate there was attendance by the said proxy,

BIRT the council amend the minutes August 2019 to include the name Matthew Shannon as having been present during the said council meeting.



Mover: Kimani Karangu **Seconded:** Arezoo Alemzadeh **Result:** Carried
Mehrizi

VOTES

FOR (21): Nevena Rebic, Mostafa Hagar, Andrew Zang, Gillian Glass, Alireza Kamyabi, Daniel He, Alison McClean, Axel Hauduc, Sarah Park, Kimani Karangu, Abdullah Hassan, Jenny Lee, Nicolas Romualdi, Maria Jose Martinez, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Aaron Loewen, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Jackson Schumacher, Lihwen Hsu, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

3.3 CANADIAN EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Group Responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Description: Canadian Emergency Business Account.

Proposed Objective: Adoption of Motion.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Canadian Emergency Business Account.pptx](#)

WHEREAS the novel COVID-19 has precipitated a global pandemic and negatively impacted the revenues of Canadian organizations,

WHEREAS the GSS would likely face declining revenues as a result of the pandemic,

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has established the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) to assist small businesses and not for profits and position the economy for recovery,

WHEREAS the CEBA program provides interest-free loans of \$40,000 to small businesses and not for profits and repaying the balance of the loan on or before 31 December 2022, will result in loan forgiveness of 25 percent (\$10,000).

BIRT the GSS Council approves that the GSS may register for and receive the CEBA funds,

BIFRT that the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer shall by two equal installments in March and June 2021 pay the repayment sum of \$30,000.

Mover: FEOO **Seconded:** HF Committee **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Anyone want to speak on this?

Arezoo: I have a question. Thank you Tayo it was a great presentation. I have only one concern. I was wondering, if the situation continues, what will happen if we're not able to pay out debt in 2021?



Kimani: Thank you for asking the question. I think that what's been stipulated is that we're only in need of the 10k, so the 30k is not going to be used by anyone, it will be in the bank and accrued some benefits before we pay it back. There's no way we'll be unable to return this money whatsoever.

Lihwen: I just wanted to ask a question. One I'm glad we're able to look at Federal Government to seek support rather than increase costs for students, the second thing is, how much of this would cover the 400 increase in IT cost that we have?

Kimani: Thank you Madam Speaker. As we're looking to address the IT issues, we're hopeful that by the time we exhaust this money, we'll be able to have sourced out a friendlier and more affordable IT services, by the time we're done with this. And if we're not able to do so by the exhaustion of this money, we're going to adjust our budget accordingly, because as you can see, we're not running in deficit so we're very safe and healthy financially, again, we're safe by doing this. We're working around the clock to make sure everything is taken care of.

Tayo: Also, to add some numbers to that, the increase is about 10k so basically the part that we don't have to pay back, and we expect to use staff costs for the other part. So, about 10k for the increase on IT costs.

Jackson: Before we vote, minor point of privilege. When you get a chance could you please re-share your screen.

Speaker: motion adopted by special resolution.

VOTES

FOR (20): Erik Frieling, Kimani Karangu, Axel Hauduc, Nicolas Romualdi, Jenny Lee, Jackson Schumacher, Delaram Shojaei, Alejandra Botia, Oluwakemi Oke, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Alireza Kamyabi, Maria Jose Martinez, Yundi Wang, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Aaron Loewen, Mostafa Hagar, Gillian Glass, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Lihwen Hsu.

ABSTAIN (1): Tayo Olarewaju

3.4 POLICY 7.7 CAUCUSES

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

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: [Policy Revision Form – Policy 7.7 Caucuses.docx](#)

WHEREAS the Policy Manual currently allows for the existence of Caucus and their supervision by the Governance and Accountability Committee, but does not have clear guideline for the formation and operation of Caucuses,

BIRT Policy 7.7 Caucus be added to the policy manual to establish clear guidelines for the formation and operation of Caucuses as official bodies of the GSS.

7.7.3 Caucuses shall function according to General Committee policy as described in 7.1. Caucuses shall not have Terms of Reference, as their specific functions are to participate in the external body.

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi **Seconded:** Nicolas Romualdi **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Aaron: I do have a motion to amend. I would like to make an amendment so currently, proposed policy 7.7.3 reads that in: "Caucuses shall function according to general committee policy as described in 7.1, except that Caucus members shall not appoint proxies" And what I'm hoping to do is amend this so that it now reads: "Caucuses shall function to the general committee policies as described in 7.1". And that is it, so we will remove "except that caucus members shall not appoint proxies". I can post this in the chat if it helps.

Speaker: I wouldn't say this is an amendment, I would say that this motion is the one you're proposing. Since it hasn't been moved or seconded. Would you prefer to move and second the motion and then you'll be the first speaker for 10 mins? Or would you like to speak, then Q&A and then the motion?

Aaron: I can speak now and then go to Q&A and then motion. Just going to run through why we have this policy so that anyone that hasn't had a chance to read over it, understands why. This new policy will formally introduce Caucuses into the policy manual at the GSS as an entity. The 2 Caucuses we're focusing on are the AMS Caucus as well as the Graduate Student Council caucus and what this basically says is that Caucuses shall function according to general committee policy and that each of these caucuses shall elect a chair. AMS Caucus shall elect a chair and Grad Council will have the VPUAA to mandate the chair of that caucus and for the AMS Caucus chair, they will have an honorarium. So basically, it's just to formalize Caucuses into the policy and to provide Chairs for both.

Speaker: Any questions?

Arezoo: Thank you. Could you please expand on the VPUAA being the chair of this Caucus? How is this happening or why this decision has been made?



Speaker: Do you mean, if this would reset the previous chairs?

Arezo: No, I think he mentioned on the condition that the VPUAA would be the chair of this Caucus. I was wondering how this decision was made. If he can expand on that.

Aaron: I'm looking here since this decision was made prior to me being chair of this committee, so I'm looking through the emails briefly. Maybe Nicolas, would you mind talking about this? If I'm not mistaken the bulk of this was discussed between Jordan and yourself possibly?

Nicolas: The proposal for this amendment was actually brought up by the previous VPUAA, Tarique Benbow, and he suggested that because advocacy to the Faculty of Grad Studies is integrally linked to the role of the VPUAA, it made sense for said VP to coordinate the other members that are part of the legislative body within the Faculty of Grad Studies. So same rational that was used in the CPC meeting where this was then amended to the proposed policy.

Tayo: I do have a question. I would like to have clarification as the VPUAA chairs this committee, was the proposal that the VPUAA will be paid for chairing this or the chairing is part of his responsibilities at VPUAA?

Aaron: It does say that the VPUAA who's chairing, shall not receive an honorarium so they're doing this as part of their duties.

Alireza: I just wanted to thank CPC for bringing forward this policy revision. I think it's about time that we start crediting the work that the chairs of our caucuses do. Having been a member of the AMS Caucus previously, I know the amount of work that goes into this and specially chairing it as well, so I'd really like to commend CPC for putting forward this motion.

Speaker: This will be special resolution as it's a policy change.

Nicolas: Madam Speaker, point of information. Am I conflicted in voting for this is its giving me more work, but I want to vote yes?

Speaker: Roberts Rules states that the conflict of interest is defined if you have a conflict of interest that is not common to the rest of the members but in this case it's not. However, that does not exclude your right to vote. Your right to vote is still intact, it's your right to abstain or not.

VOTES

FOR (18): Nevena Rebic, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Nicolas Romualdi, Alireza Kamyabi, Daniel He, Jenny Lee, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Maria Jose Martinez, Yundi Wang, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Alison McClean, Andrew Zang, Oluwakemi Oke, Alejandra Botia, Lihwen Hsu, Kimani Karangu, Mostafa Hagar, Gillian Glass.

ABSTAIN (3): Arezo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Jackson Schumacher, Aaron Loewen.



3.5 CPIF MOTION

Group Responsible: House Finance Committee

Description:

Proposed Objective: Approve motion.

Time: 5 minutes

Supporting Documents: none

WHEREAS there are 6 executives and staff in need of new laptops, 3 executives in need of new chairs, and 8 executives and staff in need of headsets,

WHEREAS there is \$320,596.94 in CPIF,

BIRT the GSS Council approve the expenditure of up to \$13 000 for the purchase of 6 new laptops, 3 new chairs, and 8 headsets.

Mover: HF Committee **Seconded:** Alireza Kamyabi **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION:

Speaker: Christina are you ready? I didn't hear Christina at the beginning of the meeting. Is there anyone else from the committee that wants to present on this?

Tayo: I propose we take this next meeting. Sorry about that. Next Council meeting.

Speaker: This would be an amendment to the agenda, and I will need an amendment done. You're suggesting you want to amend this agenda item?

Tayo: Yes.

Speaker: The motion here is to postpone this motion to the next meeting. Do we can a seconder for that?

BIRT that item 3.5 is postponed to the meeting in September.

Mover: Tayo Olerawaju **Seconded:** Delaram Shojaei **Result:** Failed

Speaker: Any discussion or objection on postponing this?

Nicolas: I'd like to speak strongly against postponing this motion since the purchase of the new equipment is so that we can equip our part time staff with laptops so that they can work remotely. In the new COVID world it's a lot more difficult to work in the office and we strongly believe, it's a basic principle that the GSS needs to provide working tools to all its employees and we're already late to purchasing this equipment so I strongly object to delaying this motion.

Speaker: To my knowledge it's both provincial and federal regulation to provide staff with adequate equipment to work.



Alireza: I would echo that. It's actually legislature that mandate that we provide staff with the equipment they need to do their work and this motion does exactly that, we're to provide the equipment that the staff need to do the virtual work that they need to do. I would speak strongly against differing this motion to a later meeting.

Gillian: I would like to third Nicolas's statement about not postponing this, particularly when we stop to think about what the process of ordering supplies/receiving supplies and getting them to the employees is usually not a 5 minute process, delaying this another month, slows down another slowed down process and since we've been in the COVID working situation since March, not that I know when this first came up or pointing fingers, I also want to speak very strongly against postponing, I think this needs to be discussed this evening. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Kimani: I want to echo what my fellow colleagues have said, I would want to strongly disagree with postponing this because it's quite late. The job we're now doing online requires equipping our staff, both full and part time, to be able to serve the 10000 students effectively and I think this motion can't afford to be postponed waiting another day.

Kimani: Point of information, would you mind repeating the choices again?

Speaker: The choice is that if you want to postpone and talked in the next meeting, vote in favour, if you want to talk about it in this meeting, vote the motion down, against.

VOTES TO POSTPONE MOTION TO NEXT MEETING:

AGAINST (23): Nicolas Romualdi, Axel Hauduc, Alison McClean, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Kimani Karangu, Alejandra Botia, Yundi Wang, Jenny Lee, Aaron Loewen, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Sarah Park, Gillian Glass, Lihwen Hsu, Mostafa Hagar, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Delaram Shojaei, Nevena Rebic, Jackson Schumacher, Andrew Zang, Jin Wen, Maria Jose Martinez, Daniel He, Alireza Kamyabi.

ABSTAIN (1): Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

Speaker: Motion is defeated so we're back to the main motion. I'm just going to read it again and I will then take speakers list.

Gillian: I do want to first say that I'm very much in support of this. I think it speaks volumes of an organization when they provide the correct equipment for their employees. Employees need to have equipment to do their job. I have 2 questions, the first is how was the number of 13k arrived at for this proposal? I was wondering if we could get a quick breakdown of what the projected costs of individual laptops, headsets and chairs are? And I also have a question about ownership of these items in particular, is it a reasonable assumption that because the GSS is making these purchases, this equipment is owned by the GSS and is in loan to the employees to be returned upon either a return to the office in full time or upon resignation or termination of their contract? So, a question about the ownership of this equipment.



Kimani: Thank you Gillian for your questions. First of all, I'd like to say that when we want to use our CPI funds, it's in the assumption that the item that is bought, belongs to the Society and the item has to be deemed fit to last more than 3 years within the Society so the item belongs to the Society. According to the prices listed that amount to 13k, we've had lengthy discussions on a variety of durable laptops, chairs and headsets and the prices vary depending on the brand and dealer. We compared a few of them and are still in the final process of agreeing on what brand we want. That's why we haven't tied each item to a price at this moment so everything is an approximation and we have given the list approximation that we can potentially get us these items, that would not only last us for 3 years, but 5 years. I think I have answered your questions Gillian.

Arezoo: I'm very grateful for the support to the staff as an HR chair, I understand that we have to support them in all they need but I see the name of the executives as in need for chairs, so I was wondering if the chairs would be delivered to their houses since we're talking about remote work. And usually, I assume that everyone has laptops, so it's not clear for me and maybe someone can explain to me, whether the employees are the ones that are requesting this. I'm assuming everyone has these electronic devices so I'm a bit curious about that.

Kimani: Madam Speaker, thank you and thank you Arezoo for your question. The chairs will be delivered to the office, they're not going to anyone's home because they belong to the Society. Despite we have closed the center, we have plans in place to re-open the building where staff and executives will go to make sure they continue to serve our students. This applies to the executives as well. On the number of laptops and other things, all students and including myself have laptops that are private. But given the number of meetings that we must attend to, for example, today as President, I have a few and I'm in one as we talk now. The other thing is about the headsets that we're talking about, as you know, not only do we have these meetings that take place once per month, we have many meetings as you can imagine. You're a former executive and maybe you didn't have the opportunity to....

Speaker: Kimani you must address to me, the Speaker.

Kimani: Thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the member is a former executive but perhaps didn't have the opportunity to attend many meetings online because of the situation of that time. However as given the situation we have many meetings being held and we need to have the best items and tools to facilitate the best meetings that we can. It is important that we have, and our staff also have, improved gadgets to facilitate their meetings in a less stressful manner. I think madam speaker, this speaks for itself and I'm happy to answer any further questions.

Arezoo: Sorry my computer is a bit slow. My questions weren't answered. I'm saying that I understand that people now have a lot of online meetings but knowing that this is from staff and they're young people, because we hire them in HR, I'm still confused and I understand again, we go through a lot of online meetings but I assume they have laptops and I still don't understand why they need a laptop from the office. I understand the legislation, but I don't understand why the request comes from staff. I still assume they have laptops, unless they're sharing with someone else and then I can understand that. As you said, we're ordering the chairs so imagine that we're working remotely, how are the chairs going to be used. That question wasn't answered either and I'm confused as well. I assume the GSS has chairs anyways.



Kimani: Madam Speaker, today we got the approval from UBC to re-open the Center for our staff. We need to prepare as we get ready to receive the students in the Fall Semester. Therefore the issue of chairs and all that, don't forget that the last time we bought all of these items was over 5 years ago I believe, and therefore the chairs we have currently, and of course we've had some re-organization of our office. With that we want to make sure to provide the best we can for our staff. And again, I want to talk to the issue that when we sent our staff home, in the situation we have we don't expect our staff to use their private laptops to do business for GSS.

Alireza: Madam Speaker, could you please expand in the piece of legislature to provide staff with equipment?

Speaker: The legislature requires the employer to provide the necessary equipment for the staff to perform their work and that is, whatever the employees have, as their personal possessions has nothing to do with this. There is no expectation to use their own personal stuff for work, unless it's in the contract. For example, a salesperson has a contract that says that you will use your car for work, however the company must reimburse for milage and gas and repairment and maintenance. This is a regular mandate from the legislation.

Kimani: Madam Speaker if I could bring a related issue to this. It's also in our policy that if we utilize anything, including milage reimbursement for the purposed of the Society, the Society must reimburse such individuals for the coverage of the cost they have incurred. Therefore, it makes sense to expand on this point and I believe this is comprehensive.

Speaker: Any further discussion on this matter? Expenditure for CPIF is a special resolution according to our bylaws and we're asking to spend 13k in 6 laptops, 3 chairs and 8 headsets.

VOTES TO APPROVE CPIF MOTION (SPECIAL RESOLUTION):

FOR (24): Jin Wen, Yundi Wang, Alison McClean, Delaram Shojaei, Jenny Lee, Maryam Tayyab, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Abdullah Hassan, Jackson Schumacher, Axel Hauduc, Sarah Park, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Nicolas Romualdi, Oluwakemi Oke, Aaron Loewen, Gillian Glass, Nevena Rebic, Andrew Zang, Alireza Kamyabi, Alejandra Botia, Maria Jose Martinez, Kimani Karangu, Daniel He.

ABSTAIN (1): Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

3.6 STRATEGIC PLAN THEMES (PRESENTATION AND MOTION)

Group Responsible: SPAHC Chair

Description: This presentation will serve as a refresher on the 2 options for strategic plan themes that were presented in the last council meeting.

Proposed Objective: Remind everyone what the options are for the strategic plan themes and allow for questions and comments from council before we proceed to vote on which themes to include in the strategic plan.



Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [SPAHC Presentation.pptx](#)

WHEREAS The 2021-2026 GSS strategic plan will be organized according to a set of “themes”.

BIRT the Council adapts the organizing themes for the GSS 2021-2026 strategic plan by special resolution as presented below:

Option 2:

Theme 1: Graduate Student Personal & Academic Wellbeing

Theme 2: Equity

Theme 3: Financial and Environmental Sustainability

Theme 4: Our Society

Mover: Jackson Schumacher **Seconded:** Jin Wen **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Jackson just to clarify the procedure, would you like to start a fixed amount of time for Q&A now and then go into the motion for vote? Or do you want to answer the question?

Jackson: I think we should allow people to ask me questions but institute a fixed amount of time for weighing the 2 different options since that could potentially go on forever and could potentially be more so of an informal preference poll? But if anyone objects, feel free to speak up.

Speaker: May I suggest 15 minutes maximum for questions and then we'll decide the rest later.

Gillian: I have some questions about the sort of, umbrella terms in option 1 theme 2, we have community experience and in option 2 theme 2 we have equity, equity is part of community experience. Those groups which are marginalized or whose voices are ignored have poor community experience so I'm just wondering about how different these 2 options really are and what we'll see happening in practice. The same thing is to my mind, the difference between option 1 and 2 on theme 3 and 4. So GSS Governance and our Society, what is the difference and if our Society is talking about the GSS Society, governance is a part of that. So, I'm just confused about the categories that are being used here.

Jackson: It's a good question. Essentially the main difference to your first point, yes equity is absolutely a part of community experience and you know if option 2 is what we go with, then equity will likely be addressed as you know, some priority within community experience. The difference is that in option 2 we're pulling equity out and emphasizing it. And you know, the same thing is true with financial and environmental sustainability. In theme 1 and 2, finances were kind of lumped in with GSS Governance but in option 2, finances are grouped together with environmental sustainability and our society would just be in collaboration with other societies and potentially GSS visibility and things like that.

Nicolas: First of all, I'd like to thank Jackson and Timothy for making time to meet with me between meetings to discuss this presentation. I've had time to reflect what we've discussed since then. In option 2, this is about having equity without explicitly stating diversity and inclusion, and these are 3 different things. And I've seen in the last couple of months, and maybe I'm overly aware because we've been handling cases in our office that relate to these matters and as we head into instructions, it's about inclusion and students abilities to become more to the forefront. So, equity is important, but I feel that we have this thing with equity and it's not state



diversity and inclusion in there as well, we're implicitly saying that equity is more important than the other 2. So, I'm just wondering if when we vote option 2, if we happen to vote for it, if it would be open to modification or once we make this decision, we're stuck with these titles and there's no change. And I appreciate that we can develop and address diversity and inclusion as well but I'm afraid about the image it projects in our thinking when we're not putting the 3, equity, diversity and inclusion at the same level.

Speaker: Jackson, this is starting to mix with recommendations rather than just questions. Would you still like a separate period for discussion?

Jackson: No need to separate at this point. Am I good to respond to Nicolas? Nicolas, I think that's an excellent point and in similar conversations that I've had, I think some feedback that came from G&A Committee, they had similar concerns that potentially just having a theme titled equity, would deemphasize things like reconciliation or diversity. And these issues came to my attention, pretty recently. We didn't have time to amend these before Council, but I would be open to Council amending theme 2 to read, equity, diversity and inclusion and reconciliation or something like that. You were also asking if we had leeway to change these or edit them later, yes, by special resolution we can change any of these moving forward. We can also fine tune what these mean during the priorities process, when we pick actual priorities. But still I think amending theme 2 is a fine idea.

Alejandra: My point was a very similar one to Nicolas's point. I was wondering if we could add diversity and inclusion into theme 2. And I guess my question around this is that I understand that theme 2 on option 1 does include diversity, equity and inclusion but if the theme is not wanting this to get lost as a priority for this theme, and so I guess my question is more so of the process to develop option 1 and 2 and how equity, diversity and inclusion would still be a priority no matter which option is chosen?

Jackson: That's a good question and I can go into detail about the next phase. When we develop priorities, it will develop more student outreach so we might run another survey. We also collected in that survey we ran, there were write-in response sections so if they said: Equity is important for me, for example, we would give them the opportunity to say exactly what they want us to do to make equity better at UBC so we can use this data. We will also collaborate with relevant committee for example in the governance theme we're going to talk to the G&A committee and have them help us with our analysis. Let's say we go with option 1, I can't guarantee that there will be an equity priority since that comes out from our work with committees and general public. But I think it's extremely likely that us as Council would like to do something with equity. I think the big difference with option 2 is that you can't have a theme 2 equity with no priorities in equity, if that makes sense.

Gillian: Thank you for the answer to the first question. My follow up question is, based on the descriptions, there's a committee feel that these are 2 proposals of equal size and time resource commitment just because option 2 in some way sounds more focused and specific than option 1 so I'm wondering if these are considering to be equally weighted options.

Jackson: May I ask a quick clarifying question, like you mean, both options would require equal resources from the Society to enact for 5 years?

Gillian: Yes, resources whether it's time and bodies, money, all resources yes. And also, to clarify, the follow up is that the realistic nature of these options are they both considered to be options that are completable in the 5-year plan.

Jackson: Yes, that's an excellent question. Both options assume the GSS is committing as many resources as possible with everyone trying their best to complete the priorities listed under these themes. So functionally what that means in option 1, each theme will get more resources since resources will be spread less thinly. So, if you look in option 1 and 2, but if we go to option 2, functionally the number of goals and priorities in comparison to theme 1, will be a little leaner because we're focusing more energy on equity and financial environmental sustainability and our Society generally.



Speaker: No further discussion? Jackson how would you like to proceed?

Jackson: Let's do an informal vote as to which option we prefer and then we can move into the main motion and I will immediately amend it to reflect the outcome of that informal vote.

Speaker: So, I have the poll setup, so this will not be a recorded vote. Thank you, Jackson, and everyone involved for consulting with me beforehand. We'll do a poll for option 1 or 2, this is a preference poll. It's not binding you to any of the options. You can vote 1 or 2 depending on which one you like best. If you're unsure of what we're doing, feel free to ask.

VOTES

OPTION 1: 6 votes

OPTION 2: 15 votes

Speaker: Ok so option 2 has a preference. The suggested method is to have the motion proposed as such. This motion is to allow us to discuss with more focused discussions on these 4 things. The motion on the floor is whereas the 2021-2016 GSS Strategic Plan will be organized according to a set of things and BIRT Council adopts that organizing themes for the GSS 2021-2026 strategic plan by special resolution as presented below. We have the 4 themes presented by Jackson and we need a mover and seconder. Jackson you still have the floor as you're the mover.

Jackson: I don't think there's a lot of need to motivate here since there's the presentation. I would welcome any discussion as to potential amendments to for example, theme 2.

Nicolas: I think that we have general direction of where we want to go, and I think maybe the committee could spend some time re-thinking the titles now that the general direction is set. Trying to get the wording right now may not be the best effective way to do it. And with that said, just for fun and since I haven't done it in a long time, I'm going to call to question.

Speaker: Alright, calling to question for new Councillors is not a debatable motion but it needs to be seconded. And once seconded we would go to a vote to see if we want to vote on this motion immediately.

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi **Secunder:** Abdullah Hassan **Result:** Carried

Speaker: Now we immediately go to a vote to see if we want to call to question and this is a special resolution.

Nicolas: Point of order, I was actually last on the speakers list so there's no need for a vote. We go directly to the motion.

Speaker: Yes and no because I'm worried that there's people that want to speak and are not receiving it. I can wait a little bit longer. Does anyone else want to speak? If I'm hearing none, that means we're going to question without voting.



Axel: I understand the time issue, but I was wondering that if this is approved by Council now, how will us as SPAHC be able to address the concerns about the wording of the themes, specially theme 2. Would we need to bring that back to Council later and then re-vote again?

Speaker: So, because we have a call to question, I can't have anyone debate on the call to question. If you disagree with stopping discussion and voting this right now, vote this motion down. If you don't understand what we're doing, you can call point of information. This is a BIR call to question, if you want to talk about it further, vote against. If you want to vote on the whole motion now, vote in favour. And Axel, I will address your question right after this.

Jin: Madam Speaker, just to clarify, the vote in favor is if we want to vote for this motion now and against if we do not?

Speaker: If you want to talk about it, vote against. Axel, now I can answer your question. As the motion reads, yes, we would need to bring it back to Council because Council has adopted this theme without saying that it can be amended without going through Council. I would like to wait for another 20 seconds, since I just explained Axel's question so that everyone has a chance to vote. In favour is, I don't want to talk about it longer and I want to adopt it as is.

VOTES FOR CALL TO QUESTION FOR ITEM 3.6

FOR (14): Kimani Karangu, Sarah Park, Yundi Wang, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Andrew Zang, Aaron Loewen, Abdullah Hassan, Jenny Lee, Alison McClean, Jin Wen, Lihwen Hsu, Maria Jose Martinez, Gillian Glass, Nicolas Romualdi.

ABSTAIN (3): Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Jackson Schumacher, Daniel He.

AGAINSTS (5): Alejandra Botia, Axel Hauduc, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Mostafa Hagar, Alireza Kamyabi.

Speaker: In favour has it so we're going to voting for the motion right now. Whoever and however people in the speaking list, will have no chance to speak if we go to the vote right away. I have the motion here ready to vote, that Council adapts theme 1-4 exactly as this, vote in favour. If you disagree, vote against. And again, to reiterate to Axel's great question, this will need to be brought to Council if amendments need to be made. Special resolution.

Jackson: I just wanted to say something quickly after the vote, before the next motion.

VOTES TO APPROVE MOTION

FOR (21): Erik Frieling, Nicolas Romualdi, Daniel He, Aaron Loewen, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Lihwen Hsu, Axel Hauduc, Jackson Schumacher, Andrew Zang, Kimani Karangu, Sarah Park, Yundi Wang, Alison McClean, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Maryam Tayyab, Michael Doerksen (proxy for Arwa Nemir), Abdullah Hassan, Jin Wen, Jenny Lee, Alireza Kamyabi, Gillian Glass.



AGAINST (3): Mostafa Hagar, Maria Jose Martinez, Alejandra Botia.

Speaker: Motion is carried. Jackson please?

Jackson: Thanks for the vote everyone, this is very exciting. I just wanted to say that if due to the call to question your input was not able to be heard, feel free to reach out to me and I'll invite you to our committee meetings if you're interested.

4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 GSS JULY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Group Responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Description: July 2020 GSS Financial Overview.

Proposed Objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures for July 2020.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [July 2020 Financial Update.pptx](#)

4.2 G&A SMART GOAL #2

Group Responsible: Jin, G&A Chair

Description: G&A SMART Goal #2: Missing department representatives in Council.

Proposed Objective: Inform on the results of our research on representation within GSS Council.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [G&A Update.pptx](#)

DISCUSSION

Alireza: Thank you Jin for this presentation. First, I also wanted to thank all the members of G&A that worked on this presentation, specially Jin and Ginny. This was a lot of work and was quite a hectic process to get all of those academic units and keep a good track of how many representatives we have. I think the presentation goes to show that we have quite a way to go to increase our visibility and engagement with folks in our Society. I think this is an extremely positive step and in the future we can potentially look into the campaign that Jin mentioned, #GetTheRepOut, because at the end of the day we would not be a democratic society without representatives coming across from all the various GSS Programs. So, thanks for all the work you do and looking forward to the solutions that come up in the future.

4.3 GRADUATE STUDENT BURSARY

Group Responsible: VPUAA



Description: Review the results from the implementation of the Graduate Student Bursary.

Proposed Objective: Update Council.

Time: 8 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Graduate Student Bursary.pptx](#)

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Nicolas, I need a time extension.

Nicolas: This is the last slide, sorry.

Jackson: Just wanted to say that this is extremely exciting work and I just wanted to thank Nicolas and also I think I saw Georgia and Kimani, thank you all for the great work.

4.4 COVID-19 SURVEY RESULTS

Group Responsible: VPUAA

Description: Review the main results of the AMS/GSS COVID-19 survey.

Proposed Objective: Update Council.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [COVID-19 Survey.pptx](#)

DISCUSSION

Arezo: Thank you Nicolas. You did a great effort and the team at the office with this presentation. I have one question, I mean, you may have presented and maybe I missed, but I was wondering about what percentage of Grad Students were worried about finishing their degree. For example, I know in my capacity as a Senator, that students are afraid that their studies will extend beyond their funding package, so I was wondering what was the percentage?

Nicolas: It's on the screen but it's also categorized by categories of Grad Students because grouping them together, 54% of students expressed concerns about graduation timelines.

Arezo: So my follow up question, I was wondering, what is the GSS Advocacy plan to navigate this situation or help students that end up in a situation where they go beyond funding and they can't complete their degree or their studies are extended to the level that they won't receive funding. I realize what you're talking about with waiving the continuation fee, this will help somehow with the finances but I see a bigger problem that first of all they might lose their funding and also they might end up not finishing their PI availability. What's your plan for advocacy?

Nicolas: Thank you for this question because we've been doing a lot of work in this direction. On the one hand, external scholarships have been extended where we've been, as you're aware, asking to extend centrally funded scholarship and that's mainly the 4-year fellowship to extend it by at least 1 term. We're currently working on 2 aspects; one is the term that has a component of both financial viability and the component of principle in terms of paying tuition for a term where the ability to do your work was severely comprised. And the flipside of that, we're also engaging actively with the university in mechanisms to expand funding in all departments. That part is still not fully formed and the reason for that is that with the COVID outbreak, we first



made decision for advocating more strongly and pushing the university to reach conclusions of immediate need, bursary for example. Things that needed to be sorted out as soon as possible because they need to address immediate housing, food and security. And now we're working through the package of the long-term impact. So, achievements in that direction have been in the course-based side, finished and on the research side the conversations have been on how we allocate more money to prolong scholarships and how we avoid penalizing students for extensions in their degree that were not a result of themselves but a result of external circumstances that were outside their control. The one thing that I will not advocate for is to put students in danger so, we're always going to follow health ministry directives in terms of return to lab and group activities. This is a reality that we must accept and work through.

Nevena: Nick this looks great. I just wanted to go to the CERB slide or whatever the equivalent is. I noticed in this questioning that we didn't, you said that this is something that stood out and for the option of no I haven't, we didn't necessarily asked them, or I'm wondering whether we asked, if they specified why they didn't apply. Whether they weren't aware of it or perceived they didn't meet the criteria for applying for either of these federal grants and whether that may have caused so many students to select no.

Nicolas: We did ask whether you were not eligible or not would've indicated as non-applicable. We did not ask further so non-eligible students, so everyone who wasn't N/A, was eligible, theoretically to apply. Why they chose not to apply, we didn't ask because honestly, we weren't expecting, this happens you know, you realize things and maybe you should've asked for a follow up question.

Nevena: How did we put N/A, did we put like we weren't eligible to apply or, I'm just wondering if potentially the wording of the question might've influenced how this is come out although I'm sure to some extent there were other factors that didn't come up in our questions that we weren't able to account for as well.

Nicolas: At this point in time, I'm not able to answer that question because I don't remember.

Gillian: Question about the TA slide. The only question was whether or not they went to the UBC link, not, did you know about it? It's literally did you go there or not and thus we can't pull the data from whether they were even aware of it in the first place.

Nicolas: This I do remember; we did include data for the site on the survey. So technically they became aware as they were answering the question. I mean, the resources in the survey, that's what I mean.

Gillian: Ok so then we can't measure how many of them were properly informed by the employer before the GSS asked them about it.

Nicolas: No but I would say that the No here is the minimum. People might've checked this as a result of the survey. So, what this indicates to me is that at most 6% of, well you must take "I'm not a TA out". But a very small percentage of TA's, relatively, were aware of the resource before doing the survey. That's not great so I will pass this on to the team.

Jackson: Thanks again for the work on this. I have another question about the TA'ships. I know in my department we have a TA shortage, but the number of TA positions is actually increased slightly so this indicates there an increase in the number of TA's that are applying for jobs perhaps to gain some financial security. Do you have any data on that in terms of what percentage of Grad Students are trying to be TA's?

Nicolas: Actively trying, no. I would say that we're working on, right now with the Faculty of Grad Studies and the union, on a joint project to better understand what TA'ships look like across the university. We just started working on this and this would be one issue that we would look into. I don't know if there's any way that we're able to, with the data that we currently have, to understand how many people are applying for TA positions and don't get any position.

Arezo: Thanks for answering my question. I have a follow up question, I don't know if that advocacy has been successful and I think I've put comments on the document, so you were advocating to extend scholarships one



semester which is great but keeping in mind that a lot of students, specially international students, they might have 4 years fellowship but if you think within the 4 years fellowship the percentage of international students is much less than domestic. With this said, I appreciate you're advocating for extension of one scholarship for the semester but imagine a lot of grad students, they're paid out of their professor funding and that advocacy will not suit them. I was wondering if you have any plans on advocating on this part and the other question is, you were saying that you're advocating on somehow more money be given to departments, because that's what I heard, and my interpretation is more money allocated to GSI, this is my interpretation, and if this is the case, I have a serious concern about more allocation to the GSI because GSI can be used in many ways and still most issues not be addressed. COVID related issues are not addressed because the GSI is governed by department so this is my fear, and I would like to hear your voice on this as well.

Nicolas: Thank you for your question. On your first question, sorry if I wasn't clear enough. One point of advocacy but there are other avenues pursued, there's a large of different funding structures for different Graduate Students so it would take a whole hour to explain each one of them. The point is first of all, to secure, it's the same as the Grad Student Bursary. You first find money and then you look at how you spend it. So, we're currently trying to identify, where we get the money and then where we put it and how to disburse it. I'm not prepared at this point to make a final statement on how that's going to look like because it's a very early stage of that process. And I appreciate that students may get frustrated with that answer, but I revert to my point, we must go in order of emergency. So Graduate Student funding and the ability to immigrate to Canada by providing quarantine accommodation, making sure students have housing, making sure that students have academic letters that allow them to pass the immigration portion, making sure students have health coverage. We just signed the updates because it was more recent than my submission, we just finished working together with the President and AMS on a change to our health and dental plan to allow international students to opt out. There's a whole array of immediate problems and the ones that tend to be more long term, are naturally getting pushed a little bit further back. It doesn't mean they're not on the radar, it just means that it's not something where we yet have a clear picture of how we plan to go about it. It requires a lot more work for the faculty, modeling and consultation and I'm really not prepared to adventure an answer at this point.

Arezo: Thank you, just in terms of where we should find the money. I just can inform you that Santa Ono announced in Senate that UBC has received money from the government of Canada to support Graduate Research and PI as well, I just wanted to inform of that resource and also I wanted to reiterate my concern, because you guys are more involved in consultation with Faculty of Grad Studies and Provost office, that if money goes to GSI keep in mind that still money can be used by departments in a way that a lot of COVID related issue could not be addressed, so just wanted to reiterate that.

Nicolas: I appreciate you pointing that out. Again, I don't yet know what we're going to do, so, I don't know. That's the short answer. We're working in and out with this and once I have a clearer picture of what this looks like, I'll be able to report back to Council.

4.5 GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE UPDATE

Group Responsible: VPJAA

Description: Review the potential courses of action for the GLC based on the current context.

Proposed Objective: Update Council.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [GLC Update.pptx](#)



DISCUSSION

Nevena: I love this plan, as someone that does research in reproductive health and care, I'm a huge advocate for this stuff. Love it, in terms of the breastfeeding room. I walked away from my computer, so I sort of missed where you were thinking of positioning the room. So, I'd like to come back to that and ask about the details about what the expectations were for the room use. Would that be more of a communal space where a number of people could go in, who require to breastfeed or whether that would be a single use space for some privacy. And I guess, one of the things that comes to mind if this place were underserved, I know that with reproductive conferences that I've gone to, they both assigned a separate room for people that may want to breastfeed or may need to kind of take care of children, and additionally a different space for people that may have faith rituals to engage on those practices while still be able to engage in conferences. So, I know we don't want to take away from providing a space for people with children and newborns to use the space at their will but I'm wondering if there's an opportunity to even further expand our equity depending on sort of how, amenable the space is to sort of, is this a more private space or more communal space, what other possibilities are there for using that space that is still kind of inclusive. I hope you're following my thought process Nicolas and if you have any thoughts about that.

Nicolas: I hope I have and thank you for all of that. So, whether the space is for one or more mothers, we can determine that and that's maybe one of the brainstorming processes we may need to go through. That's not a big deal to deal with in terms of thinking about it because again, it's going to come about whether we put the dry wall 2 feet to the left or right, if we want to make it bigger or smaller depending on the number of people that we want to allow to be in the same room at the same time. That's something that we should definitely think about, but it doesn't fundamentally alter the project in a way that creates a roadblock to continuing down the road of the renovation. In terms of the question about faith spaces or faith-oriented spaces, this would be better accommodated for the plan for the Penthouse which includes multipurpose rooms. There's a bit of a tricky situation here which I spoke in camera in the next meeting and I'd rather not go in camera again unless it's absolutely necessary, but maybe we can go back to that later Nevena, if you still want to ask that question. But to answer your question, there'd be a space to accommodate this sort of activity, it would be on the renovated penthouse, not on this level.

Nevena: That's ok and just to kind of clarify, overall I'm very supportive of the step by step plan that you're proposing, I was just a bit curious of providing for young parents and people with young children that may need to breastfeed and what-not so overall, very supportive.

Gillian: I also wanted to speak very much in favour of this. I think it's an excellent initiative from top to bottom. The revamping of rooms and just wanted to speak particularly in favour to having a space for breastfeeding and pumping and so forth. I think this is a very important space that shows a particularly underserved demographic of students that they are welcome at the university and that their comfort and research and lives are supported fully and totally by UBC and in this case the GSS. So, thank you Nicolas for the presentation and thank you everyone who worked on it.

Lihwen: I just wanted to speak in support of this space and the potential that it could bring. I would also like to add that having gone through a renewal of a commercial space of the city, I think the budget was 800k, the challenges of having delays and schedules could be pretty tricky. And having a space by space approach is ok, especially if budget is the biggest concern, however, if you're able to still have all the renovations done at the same time with enough capital, I think you will allow the users to have the full experience all together. Whereas if you were to have a phase approach, the drawback is that you would have construction that would be happening at the same time and it becomes tricky. Just wanted to bring that up as you move forward, but if capital is the biggest constraint the phase approach is very smart.

Nicolas: You're completely correct, 100%. The question here is the following, there's another nuance which is the university put 1.2 million to this and we don't spend it in the middle of the financial crisis we're going



through now, someone could go and put a question mark in why we're freezing 1.2 million dollars that we could be using for something else. So, if we can spend it, I would just spend it. I do completely agree with you in terms of its better to do everything at once. And therefore, I'm going to try to put a proposal to get everything funded and do it in one go. The question that I have today or it's not a question in terms of a motion but just to get a sense, is that if we get the answer from the UBC Executives and we're not able to fully fund this for the next 3-4 years, but we're ok with proceeding with the partial, do we have any concerns? The flipside is that if we wait 4 years, I also rob the opportunity of the next 4 years of students to have access to this renovated space. And yes, at the end of the day it will cost a bit more and give us an extra headache, but we end up giving a service to a lot of students a lot sooner that we would otherwise. So, I'm personally in favour of that option but that's kind of what I'm trying to gauge here. Are we ok if I come back next month and propose to go ahead with that?

Lihwen: Yes, I'm in support of that, as a clarification.

4.6 FULL TIME STAFF PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Group Responsible: HR Committee

Description: Review the full-time staff performance reviews.

Proposed Objective: Update the council on staff performance.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: pending

DISCUSSION

Arezoo: First, I want to give an explanation and the presentation will be given by Gillian. She's a new member of the HR Committee. According to policy 8.1 of the HR Manual, we must report on full-time staff performance twice a year which is August and February to Council. At least since I've been a member of GSS, I can't recall a presentation in Council so after a long time, we're presenting. With this being said, I should also mention that the policy asks us to do this presentation in camera and I should mention that the HR Manual is part of the policy manual as well. It was approved by Council that this be done in camera, so I want to move to go in camera.

Mover: Arezoo Alemzadeh
Mehrizi

Seconder: Aaron Loewen

Result: Carried

4.7 IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION

Group Responsible: Alireza



5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

5.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Summer Subsidy Program (month of August)

5.2 EXECUTIVES

5.2.1 President

- **UBC TKH Study GLC project**
 - Update on structural and building code reports
 - Building Envelope/Asbestos assessment/Heritage Review – Discuss if required.
 - Seismic Assessment – Discuss inclusion into the study.
 - Budget
- **Thea K's pub Rent**
 - We have engaged in deep conversations trying to assess possible solutions that will likely enable the society to evade huge losses from some of our key sources like the Pub. Discussion have involved the UBC parties responsible for collecting rent.
- **Microsoft Teams for Students – UPN Recommendation**
 - We have received some updates from UBC IT on the upcoming IT changes at UBC, UBC introduces MT <https://it.ubc.ca/services/email-voice-internet/student-alumni-email-service>
- **GSS Executive Team & Santa Ono**
 - Discussions on recent anti-racism issues
 - Affordability
 - GLC project
- **Online Councilors' Training Course**
 - To enhance a standardized training and experience, plans are underway to finally move the councilor training to UBC canvas, where new as well as serving councilors will access relevant training materials on GSS council, take a quiz and further getting a certificate of completion.
- **Advice from Students: Post-Secondary in the Age of COVID-19**
 - Invited to a students' Witnesses stories' platform with the VSB organized by SFU students. Narrative shared here resonates with most of what the executive team is advocating for on campus and off campus. COVID-19 has affected all aspects of students' lives and there is a need to adjust to the current situations.
- **Consultation Meeting with Student Executives GSS/AMS/UBCO**
 - This discussion entailed the Winter session 2 timelines as well as online vs in person classes. More discussions will happen on the topic.
- **Work Learn winter 2020 Funding decision**
 - The GSS was able to secure 8 positions for the WL, at GSS our priority is graduate students whenever there are opportunities to create meaningful employments for students, we seize the moment.



- **Dental and Health**

- Discussion are underway to make sure that international students can opt-out during the regular COC periods, further making clearer that they will also have the option to defer the opt-out to July 2021 if they are unsure of their plans for the 2020-2021 academic year.

5.2.2 FEOO

- **CEBA:** Concluded plans on applying for CEBA.
- **Direct Deposits:** Liaising with our bankers on setting up a means of making direct deposit payment.
- **Financial Budget Guideline:** A Financial Budget Guideline to explain the GSS financial budgetary process to incoming executives was developed and is currently before the House Finance Committee.

5.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

- **Community Food Security Framework Development:** A proposal to develop a Community Food Security Framework was developed jointly by the GSS, the AMS and the Food Security Core group. The purpose of the project is to establish an evidence informed assessment framework for community food security at UBC. The completed assessment framework will be used in subsequent years to monitor the state of food security on our campus and advocate for programs and/or policies to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically good health and wellbeing, sustainable communities, responsible consumption and production and climate action. The project has been fully resourced and funded through the UBC Sustainability Scholars program.
- **Students with Dependents and Different Abilities:** As more research is carried out to understand the needs of students with dependents and with different abilities, the benefits of deepening this understanding are becoming clearer. The GSS VP UAA office is seeking to partner with UBC SEEDS to receive support for larger scale research projects in these areas than the GSS could carry out on its own. If successful, we may receive funding and direct coordination with faculty and graduate students to support the research.
- **Student Discipline Review:** A review is currently being carried out to better understand the academic and non-academic misconduct procedures in the University and where gaps exist. Preliminary groundwork has been carried out by engaging with key stakeholders (Ombuds, GPS, IO, VPS). The next steps will be an engagement with the Office of the University Counsel (OUC) to get their perspective on which direction they are comfortable following, since they own most of the process.
- **Graduate Certificate Programs:** A comprehensive review of certificate programs has been carried out by the Policy Analysis team identifying which programs exist and their main characteristic. A follow up meeting with the AMS is being scheduled to determine which of these programs the AMS would ask the GSS to incorporate into the Society and what would be the criteria moving forward to incorporate new certificate programs into the GSS in a more streamlined manner.
- **Teaching Assistant 2.0:** The collaborative project between the GSS, CUPE 2278 and FGPS has started. This project aims to review the current nature of TA appointments across the University and identify key elements to make TA appointments not just employment, but also a development opportunity that confers transferable skills.



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- **Needs Based Housing:** Preliminary conversations are taking place to evaluate the possibility of moving away from a fully first come first served basis for year round on campus housing and to grant priority to students with dependents, since temporary housing may impact them negatively more than their peers without dependents.
 - **Continuing Fees for Cohort Programs:** The proposal to establish a mechanism to waive the assessment of continuing fees for graduate students in cohort programs has been approved by the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors. The decision can be made jointly by the Dean of the relevant Faculty and the Provost.
 - **Self-Isolation for International Graduate Students:** At the request of the student societies, UBC housing has implemented a plan to facilitate self-quarantine for incoming and returning international students. Self-isolation services will be available to students who have permanent student housing, and non-UBC housing. There are also pre-arranged packages on off campus locations for students who may prefer that. Details are available at: <https://vancouver.housing.ubc.ca/other-housing/self-isolation/>
 - **Student Discounts for Remote Learning:** As a result of joint AMS/GSS advocacy, the University has worked with a number of partners to provide discounted access to technology and connectivity. More details on: <https://it.ubc.ca/services/student-discounts-remote-learning> Plans may be expanded in the future.
 - **New SEEDS Partnership:** As part of the ongoing effort to engage with campus stakeholders and develop partnerships, the GSS is currently developing a plan for potential collaborations in Sustainability oriented projects with SEEDS (Social Ecological Economic Development Studies - <https://sustain.ubc.ca/teaching-applied-learning/seeds-sustainability-program>). The potential initial projects are research related to students with additional challenges or barriers, such as dependents or different abilities.

5.2.4 VP External

- **UPass:** [The AMS/GSS Transit Summer Subsidy Program](#) has come to an end. We will be summarizing the results and utilization rate of the subsidy later this month. The program received widespread positive feedback from students. In preparation for fall, we are at the tail end of our negotiations with Translink to add new provisions to the UPass contract to address the reality that many fee-paying students might be residing outside of Lower Mainland while attending virtual classes in September. More likely we will be looking at a mechanism to allow for students not residing in the Lower Mainland to opt-out of the UPass.
- **Addressing The Backlog of Study Permit Applications and Extending MSP Coverage for Students with Implied Status:** In the last month, delays in application processing in Canada Immigration and Citizenship Services have led to long waitlists of students already residing in Canada having to wait for their expiring study permits to be renewed. Having heard from many students on this issue, the GSS VPX Office prioritized advocacy efforts to the province to ensure students with implied status whose study permits are expiring soon are not left without healthcare and MSP coverage amidst a pandemic. Allying with ABCS as well as Graduate Student Societies in BC, we were able to bring enough attention to the issue resulting in the province extending MSP coverage until October 31st for students with implied status whose study permits might have expired. Canada Immigration Services has also



streamlined the application process by removing requirements for biometrics which will hopefully expedite the study permit application process and resolve the waitlist issue by October 31st.

- **Uniting BC Graduate Student Societies:** Currently, there is no advocacy alliance of graduate student societies across BC or Canada (with the exception of ThinkGrad and CAGS) and the lack coordination and advocacy alliance amongst graduate student societies has led to inadequate lobbying representation at the provincial and federal levels. We met with representatives from UVIC, UNBC and SFU for the fourth time a few weeks ago to discuss our joint letter to BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training clearly articulating the different needs and avenues for support for graduate students vs. Undergraduates. This month the GSS VPX Office also started a new initiative collaborating with the AMS to setup a federal graduate student alliance consisting of members of graduate societies associated with student unions in Canadian Research-Intensive Universities.
- **CRM Software and strategies for tracking and recording stakeholder relations:** 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.
- **AcEx Advocacy Panel:** The VPX Office, in collaboration with AcEx, is currently working on finalizing the draft ToR for the AcEx 'Advocacy Panel' (tentatively named).
- **Hiring Policy Assistant:** The GSS VPX Office welcomed Natalie Cappe this month as Policy Assistant. Natalie will be bringing with her a wealth of experience in policy development and community consultation. We are excited to have her on our side as we work on exciting new projects this coming academic year.
- **Provincial Lobby Days with ABCS:** At ABCS, we are currently working on developing and prioritizing our asks for our upcoming provincial lobby days. The VPX Office invited the ABCS Chairperson and Social Policy Researcher to make a presentation to Academic & External Committee this week on the potential issues and asks that could be discussed in Victoria. AcEx Committee provided in-depth feedback on various advocacy issues such as funding, accessibility to graduate education for students with disability, housing, sexual violence prevention and response and more. The feedback solicited from various students' societies will be aggregated and further discussed in ABCS Advocacy Committee in the coming weeks.
- **Provincial Funding of \$36M to Double Addiction Treatment Beds Available to Youth:** This month, amidst rapid increases in fatal overdoses since the start of the pandemic, the province announced new funding to create another 123 treatment beds for young people struggling with substance use, more than doubling the number of beds available by 2022. The GSS welcomed this funding announcement by the Province and will continue to urge the province to provide urgently needed solutions to address the overdose pandemic in BC. 60 people under the age of 24 died of suspected overdoses between January and June of this year.

5.2.5 VP Students

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- **September Orientations:** events are live, working on the virtual campus tour, live panelist webinars, working with UBC Yoga Club to offer yoga sessions to wrap up events in September
 - **Classes:** working with Alyssa from UBC A&R to confirm graduate-specific yoga & Zumba classes



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- **Summer Subsidy Program:** currently LIVE! Go out to the PNE, Grouse Mountain, or Capilano Suspension Bridge and get 25% of your ticket reimbursed - check out more information on our Instagram using the #GSSGoesOutside
 - **Canada-wide VP Students meeting:** on Aug 12th, meeting with VP Student-esque and Presidents across many student unions across Canada to discuss current ideas and strategies and share some initiatives that could be done elsewhere to better support and engage graduate students for the upcoming year
 - **Graduate Student Competition:** currently in talks with UManitoba VP Students to come up with a virtual graduate competition - in talks with Aman (UBC VP Students office), Susan (UBC Centre for Community Engaged Learning), and Jacqui (Grad & Postdoctoral Studies Pro-D)
 - **GPDN Virtual Career Week:** working with Jacqui and other graduate pro-d staff to host a week of events in November 2020
 - **Affiliate Organizations:** working on developing a newsletter for AOs, creating a template email to send as a follow-up for AO Orientations.

5.3 COMMITTEES

5.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- The ACEX committee met twice in this month on August 6th and 17th, 2020. Some of the projects that we are working on are listed as follows:
 - GSS Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression Statement.
 - GSS Statement on Online Proctoring Issues.
 - GSFA Policy Review
 - Funding Advocacy Research Subcommittee TOR
- In the last ACEX committee, we had a Q&A session with the VP UAA about Arezoo's concerns mentioned in the June 18, 2020 council meeting's follow-up letter, and we approved the following motion: *"The ACEX committee is satisfied with the VP UAA's responses to the concerns in the letter and commends the VP UAA for their work on these pressing issues"*

5.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has been actively working on revising the Executive Duties as laid out in the Bylaws and Policy Manual.
- CPC has been doing some routine housekeeping work regarding policy around councillor seating which will be presented at a later council meeting.

5.3.3 Elections Committee

- The WorkLearn application for the new Elections Officer role (new proposed title: Electoral and Student Engagement Officer), approved by UBC GSS HR Committee in July, has been approved by the WorkLearn office and is being advertised on careersonline.



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- Communications and Marketing Director, Ben Hill, has been advertising the position on social media and in newsletter
 - Alejandra Botia, current chair of Elections Committee will be stepping down as Chair during the August 20th GSS Council Meeting. The Elections Committee has nominated Mostafa Hagar for the position.
 - The following motion was passed: BIRT Election committee nominates Mostafa Hagar as the chairperson for the Elections Committee. Mover (Alejandra) Second (Abdullah) Result: Passed
 - Elections Committee has been connecting with CPC to review policies 4.1.3 and 12.1.1 in regard to the backup options for an Electoral Officer
 - Elections Committee is working to develop a proposal to modify the complaints process regarding the elections cycle. The committee is developing a proposal to have two established procedures, one addressing complaints directed at the Elections Committee itself, and a second one addressing general complaints and complaints or conflict between candidates.
 - Last meeting held on August 6th, 2020.
 - Next meeting: TBD

5.3.4 Executive Committee

- Continued engagement with key stake holders through meeting (Dean G+PS, Provosts (Andrew) and President Ono) on matters pertinent to graduates including GLC, Funding, Affordability and Access,

5.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- EOC recently met to discuss a complaint made against an executive and assign tasks relating to our third SMART goal.

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 in August Council.
- 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, but we are close to presenting this among the committee.
- G&A finalized the "GSS Chair Transition Guide" and is located in the "GSS Chairs and Executives Caucus" folder under Files > Resources.
- G&A is working on developing a form on Teams for committee chairs to submit their KPIs before each council. We are working on a draft and will present it soon.

5.3.7 House Finance Committee

- The HF committee this month has been busy discussing the need and feasibility of applying for the CEBA government loan, has discussed the budget for staff training, CPIF spending, and begun updating the society booking policy. We have also reviewed the Graduate Student Society Financial Budget Guideline document developed by the FEOO.



5.3.8 Human Resources

- In June and July HR committee reviewed the HR manual, created a list of things that needs to be changed. HR also reviewed and approved 8-part times' job descriptions, all of which have been approved by UBC work learn. 2 new part time positions have been approved: Policy assistant position, electoral and engagement officer. We hired for advocacy coordinator and 1 newly created policy assistant positions.

5.3.9 Services Committee

- (none submitted)

5.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- Right now, SPAHC is finishing phase 1 of the strategic planning process (picking themes). At the July 20 council meeting we are presenting a motion to ratify a set of themes for the strat plan that will allow us to move forward to phase 2 (choosing priorities).
- Stay tuned as SPAHC will be working closely with council and most committees in the coming months to develop priorities for the next 5 years.
- SPAHC has had one committee meeting since the last council meeting where we discussed the council presentation made in July and planned for the august council presentation and motion.

5.3.11 AMS Caucus

- AMS Caucus welcomed it new members Della and Maryam who attended their first AMS council meeting on Aug.5.
- In the Aug.5 meeting, GSS reps advocated for partnerships with graduate organizations in federal advocacy as well as increased allocation of funds to mental health resources at the university level.
- The Caucus continues to work with the AMS impact grant committee on its TOR (AMS caucus SMART goal #1)

5.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

- (none submitted)

5.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.4.1 Senators:

- Update on Senate July [meeting](#).
- A new School of Creative Writing was approved.
- Course code changes regarding the eventual shift to workday was approved. Course codes will now have underscore V or underscore O to represent courses from Vancouver or Okanagan.
- A transcript notation that mentions the date and impact of moving courses online due to COVID19 was approved.



- The recommendations from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Diversity and Inclusion was approved, one of which recommends a new structure (such as a committee or working group) to exist in the Senate to address academic diversity and inclusion.
- All but one of the recommendations from the triennial review was approved! These recs include small items such as increasing the number of people on committees and committee terms of references, to large items such as approving the creation of a conflict of interest policy and conducting an external review, which students have been advocating for years.
- Lastly, student senators were told by another senator that we spoke too much, which was quite rude, but the senator has since apologized. Majority of the caucus sent an email to Santa on and the senate secretariat expressed their disappointment and condemned the act.

5.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- The special July Board of Governors meetings were held on July 20th (Finance Committee) and 27th (full Board) to approve the budget, which was deferred from April due to uncertainty related to COVID-19. The Board also endorsed the [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#), which will be launched this fall. [Agenda and materials can be found here.](#)

6 NOTICES

6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, September 17th at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Henry Walsgrove was unseated as Ordinary Member from the Services Committee.
- Larissa Peck was unseated as Councillor from Academic and External Committee.
- Larissa Peck was unseated as Departmental Representative from Medical Genetics.
- Kaiya Yamada was unseated as Ordinary Member from Academic and External Committee.
- Marcos Riquelme was unseated as Ordinary Member from Academic and External Committee.
- Timothy Luk was unseated as Chair for Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.
- Timothy Luk was unseated as Ordinary Member for Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.
- Alejandra Botia was unseated as Departmental Representative from Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education.
- Alejandra Botia was unseated as Chair from Elections Committee.
- Alejandra Botia was unseated as Councillor from Elections Committee.
- Alejandra Botia was unseated as Representative from Graduate Council.
- Kiana Yau was unseated as Departmental Representative from Experimental Medicine.
- Kiana Yau was unseated as Councillor from Executive Oversight Committee.
- Mollie Holmberg was unseated as Departmental Representative from Geography



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- Mollie Holmberg was unseated as Councillor from Academic and External Committee.
 - Teesha Luehr was unseated as Departmental Representative from Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
 - Jessie Zhang was unseated as Ordinary Member from House Finance Committee.
 - Alireza Kamyabi was unseated as Departmental Representative for Neuroscience.

7 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **9:49 pm.**

Mover: Alireza Kamyabi

Seconder: Abdul Ahad
Ahmadi

Result: Adjourned