



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Adriana Osa-Gómez del Campo (proxy for Gloria Mellesmoen), Alexa Tanner, Alejandra Botia, Alvionne Harrison-Gardner, Andras Szeitz, Arash Shadkam, Christina Wiesmann (proxy for Xuejun Ryan Ji), Deema Alhusari (proxy for Larissa Peck), Erik Frieling, Farah Deeba, Hilal Kina, Jeanie Malone, Jordan Hamden, Joseph Ogbede, Joyce Lam, Karen Thulasi, Katharine Sedivy-Haley, Kiana Yau, Lily Takeuchi, Logan Lorenz, Nafise Faridi Rad, Melanie (proxy for Sebastien Rettie), Nevena Rebic, Sara Hosseinirad, Stella Baehring (proxy for Theresa Pauly), Tarique Benbow, Tayo Olarewaju, Teesha Luehr, Temi Onifade, Timothy Luk, Yangfan Zhang, Yanuar Philip Wijaya, Yee Fay Lim

**Regrets:** Philip Karangu

**Absent:**

**Quorum:** 23 Councillors

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### AGENDA ADOPTION

**BIRT** the agenda be adopted as presented.

**Mover:** Nicolas

**Seconder:** Arash

**Result:** Motion carries

### TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**President:** As we start our meeting, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Musqueam people.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

## 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 APPOINTMENT OF A VP UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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**Group Responsible:** GSS President

**Description:** The elected VP UAA, Razi Bayati, has submitted her resignation effective August 15th. At present, the GSS services continue to function normally. Pursuant to Bylaw 8.4.1 "In the event of the resignation, incapacitation, or absence without explanation of an Executive Officer, vacancies may be filled by appointment upon a special resolution of Council." The appointment of a VP UAA will be discussed as an expedient matter of the Society.

**Supporting Documents:** [GSS Bylaws.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** Razi Bayati has submitted her resignation to the position of Vice President University and Academic Affairs, and

**WHEREAS** as per Bylaw 8.4.1 the GSS Council can appoint a VP UAA by special resolution.

Candidates: Nathan Dhaliwal, Mohammad Mahdavyfakhr, and Tarique Benbow

**Nathan:** I am honoured to be running for VP University and Academic Affairs. I have been a student at UBC for ten years and through these experiences I have developed a thorough understanding what students face in terms of difficulties and challenges. I want to assist graduate students at UBC with reaching their potential – especially since graduate students are at much bigger risk than the general population with mental health challenges during these stressful times. There needs to be resources to address these issues. We must also address the inherent financial burdens that come with being a graduate student, which also leads to the mental and physical challenges we face. Ultimately, we also need to address the issues with interactions with different individuals, such as supervisors, and implement certain strategies that make the relationship more seamless. I believe I can move this university forward with the skills and strategies that I have developed over my time here at UBC. Thank you.

**Tarique:** Hi everyone. I am a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and I sit on the Governance and Accountability Committee of the GSS. I would like to nominate myself as the interim VP University and Academic Affairs. I believe I should start out by saying what is required right now of the interim VP UAA: We need someone who is knowledgeable about the GSS, its structure, and the needs of students, and also someone with the right contacts – someone who has experience working with individuals at UBC. I believe I have these qualities – I am the Graduate Student Ambassador from working with the Governance and Accountability Committee. Uplifting and bringing into focus what graduate students' needs are – I would be the right person to take over.

**Muhammad:** Hi, I am a Master's student in Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering. I am here to help the graduate students face the challenges and problems that they face. They face many



challenges and they go to the authorities hoping to have their problems solved, but they lack resources. For example, the amount of awards or resources that they receive is not justified. We can increase the amount of awards and scholarships they receive because they are improving the name of the UBC. We are improving the brand of UBC. Also, for example, when students come to UBC sometimes they don't have any housing. I think they should wait just one year to receive housing, and it is not fair to the graduate students. I think in terms of academics, UBC should improve. For example, my department does not have enough facilities and equipment for their students – if they have more facilities and devices they can contribute to more research and help build the brand of UBC.

**Alexa:** Thank you all for running. I only recognize one name on that list – can you say why you have only joined the GSS now?

**Nicolas:** I guess the question isn't for Tarique.

**Speaker:** Tarique, you can pass if you want, but you have the right to speak.

**Tarique:** Well, I don't even know how to begin to speak to that. I have been with the GSS for approximately eight months. I first joined as an Ordinary Member, because I recognized the ways in which I could help my department. I wanted to bring positive change so that is why I joined the GSS. I joined the Governance and Accountability committee and was able to fully grasp the GSS structure...

**Mohammad:** Unfortunately, because this was the first year I came to UBC, I was not involved in GSS activities – but because I was a part of other activities, I am fully aware of the problems that UBC graduate students face. I can totally relate to their problems and because I know their problems, and I can help the students work on solving their problems.

**Nathan:** I feel like I have a good understanding of this university, having been for so many years. I am wanting to give back and take what I learned throughout my time here, and find the resources that could help students. This is why I ran for this position last year, and am running again this year.

**Arash:** I guess this question is more for Tarique because the other two candidates may not be able to answer, but – what would you do differently from the VP UAA before you?

**Mohammad:** I guess the previous VP UAA did not really talk about the financial problems of the students. For example, the housing problem for UBC is a major problem. For the first years of study, they cannot live on campus. They cannot start taking first year, and it takes almost a year ..

**Nathan:** I feel that the previous VP UAA did an admirable job. I was happy with the strategies they were implementing, and I would be rebuilding on them and applying ways to help more students.

**Tarique:** So what I would be doing differently from the previous VP UAA is forge the right contacts. In this position, you have to have meaningful relationships with individuals who can really push forward the objectives. That is what I would do – forge the right relationships with the right people to meet the desired goals.



**Victoria:** Ok, I am not asking a question; I just want to give an endorsement. Tarique touched on this – generally it is important to have someone who has really been involved long-term, who has an understanding of not only how UBC works but also how GSS works, what the VP's role is about, etc. So, with that in mind I would like to endorse Tarique. The work that I have seen him do personally in the Governance and Accountability committee has been very memorable. He has constantly been signing up to do more and more work for us, which is always a good thing. It is a matter of dedication and passion, so I formally endorse Tarique Benbow.

**Ty:** So the main avenue the AcEx committee has for gathering graduate student feedback is the GSS Student Satisfaction Survey. What instrument would you want the GSS to develop for gathering graduate student feedback?

**Nathan:** One thing I feel that I have a bit of experience on is designing ways to elicit more feedback in terms of responses on surveys and things of that nature. I would be able to redesign the survey that we currently have, to encourage wider feedback among graduate students.

**Mohammad:** I think the survey should be more transparent. For example if I am going to ask the students to give their opinion, I am also going to have the students present a review on the question, for example, like on Instagram...

**Tarique:** One of the avenues would be through having a townhall meeting. That would probably give graduate students an opportunity to speak openly about their issues, rather than in a confined survey.

**Nicolas:** I am pleased that I don't have a conflict of interest this time. In some aspects of how this role goes, if anything helps you be successful, it is the relationships that you build before you get to the role. You don't really have time to start getting to know Dr. Porter, VP Students, etc. The reality today is that we are faced with a short term. Whether we have a by-election or not, please start thinking about the relationships we can already start to have. I guess I am formally endorsing Tarique as well, because it's obvious where I am going with this.

### To vote, press:

- **A for Nathan Dhaliwal**
- **B for Mohammad Mahdavyfakhr**
- **C for Tarique Benbow**

**C = majority**

**BIRT** the GSS Council, by special resolution, appoints Tarique Benbow to the position of VP University and Academic Affairs.



**Mover:** Nicolas      **Second:** Temi      **Result:** Motion carries.

## 1.2 VP UAA BY-ELECTION

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**Group Responsible:** GSS President

**Supporting Documents:** [GSS Bylaws.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** Razi Bayati has submitted her resignation to the position of Vice President University and Academic Affairs

**BIRT** the GSS Council directs the Elections Committee to analyze the possibility of holding a by-election for the position of Vice President University and Academic Affairs and report back to Council in the September regular meeting.

**Nicolas:** We discussed this at length with the Chair of the CPC. Though we have filled the role of the VP UAA just now, there is the provision to have a by-election. What we are doing is that we are asking Elections committee to report back to us next month about whether we have the possibility of running a by-election, and if we have, what it would look like in terms of timeline. Then during the next Council meeting we can decide whether we want to have a by-election or not, depending on the recommendations of the Elections committee.

**Pouya:** What happens if we press “Yes”?

**Speaker:** “Yes” means you want Elections committee to investigate the possibility of a by-election.

**Mover:** Nicolas      **Second:** Philip      **Result:** Motion carries.

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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**BIRT** the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- July 18th, 2019



**Victoria:** I like to move that in the minutes we include the full written Territorial Acknowledgment.

**Mover:** Victoria      **Seconder:** Nicolas      **Result:** Motion carries

## 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

**BIRT** the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>		<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	
<b>Code and Policy Committee:</b>	July 8th 2019, July 30th 2019	<b>Services Committee:</b>	
<b>Elections Committee:</b>	June 27th 2019 July 25th 2019	<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	April 10th 2019 July 10th 2019 July 24th 2019
<b>Executive Committee:</b>		<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	July 3rd 2019
<b>Executive Oversight Committee:</b>			

**Mover:** Nicolas      **Seconder:** Arash      **Result:** Motion carries

**Victoria:** Just wondering why a lot of committees do not have their minutes submitted?

**Nicolas:** HR had one meeting prior to this Council meeting so we haven't approved the minutes.

**Ty:** AcEx is working on it.

**Pouya:** Services didn't meet.

**Nicolas:** The executives had a problem securing quorum.

EOC: Philip was absent; no member spoke on his behalf.



## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

Name	Department
Nafise Faridi Rad	Mechanical Engineering
Alejandra Botia	Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education

**Mover:** Nicolas

**Seconded:** Andras

**Result:** Motion carries

### 3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

**BIRT** the following External Representatives Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
AMS Caucus	Alireza Kamyabi Jackson Schumacher	Representative	2
Graduate Council		Representative	0
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	0
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

**Mover:** Nicolas

**Seconded:** Arash

**Result:** Motion carries

### 3.3 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:



# August 2019 Council Agenda

August 15th, 2019 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

Committee	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External		Councillor	1
	Rahaf Alassil, Nathan Dhaliwal, Mohammad Mahdavyfakhr	Ordinary Member	3
Code & Policy		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	3
Elections	Jordan Hamden	Councillor	3
	Nathan Dhaliwal	Ordinary Member	4
Executive Oversight	Kiana Yau	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	3
House Finance		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	2
Human Resources		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	3
Services		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	0

**Mover:** Nicolas

**Seconder:** Victoria

**Result:** Motion carries

## 4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 4.1 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 2020:





# August 2019 Council Agenda

August 15th, 2019 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Liu Institute Network for Africa	Joseph Ogbede

**Joseph:** We are a network of people – graduate students and professors who are from Africa or studied in Africa – who come together to share ideas.

**Pouya:** Can I ask how many members you have? How many graduate students do you have?

**Joseph:** We have more than 70 graduate students. The majority of the members are graduate students.

**Mover:** Nicolas

**Secunder:** Pouya

**Result:** For (28): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Eric Frieling , Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Philip Wijaya

Abstained: Kiana Yau

## 4.2 ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Group Responsible:** CPC and AcEx

**Presentation Time:** None

**Subject Description:** AcEx Terms of Reference

**Relevant Materials:** [Policy Revision Form - Policy 8.2 AcEx Terms of Reference.docx](#)

**WHEREAS** the AcEx Terms of Reference is not ideally aligned with either the Strategic Plan or with the activities of AcEx,

**WHEREAS** the ex officio membership of AcEx should be updated,

**WHEREAS** the inclusion of external representatives as ex officio members of AcEx, even when these representatives do not participate in AcEx has impacted AcEx's ability to make quorum,

**WHEREAS** CPC, AcEx, and G&A have all approved of these changes,

**BIRT** Policy 8.2 be repealed and replaced with the policy contained in the [Policy Revision Form - Policy 8.2 AcEx Terms of Reference.docx](#)



**Kate:** More details are in the Policy Revision Form. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

**Mover:** Temi                      **Seconder:** Andras

**Result:** For (22): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Kiana Yau

Abstained: Alexa Tanner

#### 4.3 EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

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**Group Responsible:** CPC and EOC

**Presentation Time:** None

**Subject Description:** EOC Terms of Reference

**Relevant Materials:** [Policy Revision Form - Policy 8.6 EOC Terms of Reference.docx](#)

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** EOC's terms of reference do not ideally reflect the strategic plan or EOC's preferred practices,

**WHEREAS** Explicitly empowering EOC to make recommendations to Council regarding executive performance is important in allowing EOC to fill their Oversight role, and these recommendations would give Council appropriate guidance to act in cases where executive performance is concerned,

**WHEREAS** CPC and EOC have both approved these changes,

**BIRT** Policy 8.6.1 and 8.6.2 be repealed and replaced with the policy 8.6.1 and 8.6.2 as contained in the [Policy Revision Form – Policy 8.6 EOC Terms of Reference.docx](#)

**Kate:** Similar to the last one, this was an overview of the ToR to make sure it is in line with the Strategic Plan and in line with what they are supposed to be doing. The main thing to note is that the EOC should have the ability to make recommendations to Council with respect to executive performance.

**Mover:** Karen                      **Seconder:** Andras

**Result:** For (23): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau



Abstained: Nicolas Romualdi

#### 4.4 CPIF DISBURSEMENT FOR LEON'S LOUNGE

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**Group responsible:** House Finance Committee

**WHEREAS** the paint in Leon's Lounge and the GSS Boardroom and the ceiling tiles in Leon's Lounge in the Thea Koerner House are in disrepair and in need of an upgrade, and

**WHEREAS** re-painting Leon's Lounge and the GSS Boardroom and replacing the ceiling tiles will make the rooms more presentable thereby allowing for external room bookings,

**BIRT** the GSS Council approves the expenditure of up to \$4 500 from the capital projects and improvement fund (CPIF) to re-paint Leon's Lounge and the Boardroom and replace the existing ceiling tiles in Leon's Lounge.

**Arash:** How much money is left in the CPIF? For the future I'd like the House Finance committee to include that as a note.

**Nicolas:** Roughly \$220,000 after we spend this money.

**Alireza:** Are those rooms bookable right now? What has been their occupancy in terms of booking?

**Nicolas:** Leon's Lounge was not bookable, it was a deposit for trash. We got rid of the trash and did what we could without the money. The boardroom was also misused – the last time it was used was for the thesis retreat. It is looking nice now, but both rooms need to be repainted.

**Tim:** Is the \$4500 based on a quote?

**Nicolas:** It is based on the best of three quotes.

**Mover:** Arash

**Secunder:** Karen

**Result:** For (24): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Joyce Lam, Logan Lorenz, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau

Abstained: Tayo Olarewaju

#### 4.5 CPIF DISBURSEMENT FOR GSS ARCHIVE ROOM

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**Group responsible:** House Finance Committee



**Relevant Materials:** [Green Room \(archive room\) photos](#)

**WHEREAS** the current GSS archive space has no wall between the room and the unfinished, exposed space underneath the GSC, creating an unfit space for safe and healthy archival use,

**BIRT** the GSS Council approve the expenditure of up to \$11,000 from CPIF to build a wall between the current archive space and the exposed space to create a proper archive room

**Nicolas:** If you look at the pictures you will see very quickly what the problem is.

**Victoria:** As a representative of the Archival and Information Studies, the conditions – not good. Not acceptable. I would really love to see some push for that.

**Mover:** Ryan

**Secunder:** Nicolas

**Result:** For (23): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Eric Frieling, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Joyce Lam, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Anoras Szeitz, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau

Abstained: Tayo Olarewaju

## 4.6 DECLARATION OF ELECTION AND OTHER FORMS

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**Group Responsible:** G&A and CPC

**Presentation Time:** None

**Subject Description:** Declaration of Election and other Form updates

**Relevant Materials:** [Policy Revision Form - Appendix II-IX-X-XII Declaration of Election and other Forms](#)

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** formatting changes to these forms improve readability and adopt GSS branding,

**WHEREAS** the text of the Declaration of Election has been amended by G&A Committee and reviewed by CPC, clarifying the text and permitting strictly fewer releases of Councillors' personal information,

**WHEREAS** the Confidentiality Agreement should contain both a Member and Employee version,

**BIRT** the Policy Manual Appendices II, IX, X, and XIII be replaced with their respective updated forms as presented in [Policy Revision Form - Appendix II-IX-X-XII Declaration of Election and other Forms](#)

**BIFRT** the Policy Manual Appendix II be renamed "Declaration of Election".



**Speaker:** Kate, you want to speak?

**Kate:** No, I think it's pretty straightforward, Speaker.

**Mover:** Nicolas

**Secunder:** Joyce

**Result:** For (22): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Eric Frieling, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Joyce Lam, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau

## 4.7 HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

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**Group Responsible:** CPC & HF

**Presentation Time:** None

**Subject Description:** HF Terms of Reference

**Relevant Materials:** [Policy Revision Form – Policy 8.4 HF Terms of Reference](#)

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the HF Terms of Reference is not ideally aligned with either the Strategic Plan or with the expected activities of HF, and

**WHEREAS** the ex officio membership of HF should be updated to include the FEOO, who is highly involved in the activities of the committee,

**WHEREAS** CPC, HF, and the FEOO have all approved of these changes,

**BIRT** Policy 8.4 be repealed and replaced with the policy contained in the [Policy Revision Form – Policy 8.4 HF Terms of Reference](#)

**BIFRT** Policy 8.4.1 b) v. be amended to “Review quarterly reports from the General Manager on usage of physical facilities”

**Christina:** I really hate to do this but we don't review reports quarterly. We review them annually.

**Kate:** I would like to move to amend the BIFRT.

**BIFRT** Policy 8.4.1 b) v. be amended to “Review ANNUAL reports from the General Manager on usage of physical facilities”

**Mover:** Ryan

**Secunder:** Andras



**Result:** For (20): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi

## 4.8 ELECTIONS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

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**Group Responsible:** EC and CPC

**Presentation Time:** None

**Subject Description:** EC Terms of Reference

**Relevant Materials:** [Policy Revision Form – Policy 8.5 EC ToR and Policy 12 CEO.docx](#)

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** EC has proposed taking on additional responsibilities related to increasing graduate student engagement, as well as the Strategic Plan goal to improve elections visibility and engagement, and

**WHEREAS** the title “Chief Electoral Officer” has the confusing abbreviation of “CEO,” and “Chief” is unnecessary as there exist no other Electoral Officers in the GSS, and

**WHEREAS** EC is now consistently active with a Chair who is not the Electoral Officer, such that the Electoral Officer should be designated an ex officio member of EC, and

**WHEREAS** CPC and EC have approved of these changes,

**BIRT** Policy 8.5 be repealed and replaced with the policy contained in the [Policy Revision Form – Policy 8.5 EC ToR and Policy 12 CEO.docx](#)

**BIFRT** the Chief Electoral Officer be renamed “Electoral Officer” and references to the Chief Electoral Officer in the Policy Manual be updated to refer to the Electoral Officer.

**Arash:** Do we hire the Chief Electoral Officer?

**Nicolas:** Yes.

**Arash:** Do they know about these changes? If it's not covered by their job description, there might be some problems.

**Nicolas:** The Electoral Officer is not an on-going position. Whenever we rehire we would use a new job description, but the input of the last Electoral Officer Alice Miao, is in this Terms of Reference.

**Mover:** Ryan

**Second:** Sara



**Result:** For (23): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Megan Holec, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Arezoo M., Maria Martinez, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner

Abstained: Pouya Rezaeinia

## 4.9 STRATEGIC PLANNING AD-HOC COMMITTEE

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**Group Responsible:** Governance & Accountability Committee

**Subject Description:** Striking the “Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee” and ratify its terms of reference.

**Relevant Materials:** [Strategic Plan Ad-Hoc Committee Terms of Reference](#)

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** bylaw 14.1 requires the Graduate Student Society to have a strategic framework, and

**WHEREAS** the current strategic plan cycle finishes in 2021, and

**WHEREAS** the Governance and Accountability Committee has prepared terms of reference for a strategic planning ad hoc committee, which have been reviewed and endorsed by the Code and Policy Committee.

**BIRT** the GSS Council, by special resolution, strikes the “Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee”, with terms of reference as presented in the supporting document “Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference”

**Tarique:** I think it’s pretty straightforward – as an organization we need to have a strategy for moving forward.

**Mover:** Victoria

**Secunder:** Karen

**Result:** For (27): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Megan Holec, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Teesha Luehr, Timothy Luk, Arezoo M., Maria Martinez, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Nevena Rebic, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner



## 4.10 STRATEGIC PLANNING AD-HOC COMMITTEE SEATINGS

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

Committee	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee	Alireza Kamyabi, Teesha Luehr Nevena Rebic Timothy Luk	Councillor	4
	Stella Baehring Lois Evans Jackson Schumacher	Ordinary Member	3

**Nicolas:** The Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee is the place you want to be if you are interested in changing our priorities to housing, funding, healthcare, sustainability – this is where you want to be. Once we come to decisions, this is going to inform the executives and councillors for the next five years. We are bound to our Strat Plan.

**Victoria:** Can I motivate?

**Speaker:** Yes.

**Victoria:** I just want to say that this committee would also give you skills and practice on management that you can carry forward with you in your career. This is a fantastic way to gain practice.

**Arash:** What is the time commitment of this committee?

**Tarique:** I can't say specifically how often they will meet, but if you look at the Terms of Reference, there are certain deliverables that the committee will be expected to bring forward. So it would be up to the committee chair to determine how often they meet, to have their deliverables submitted to Council. Initially they will have to meet monthly, but leading up closer to the end of the Strategic Plan, I imagine that the meeting times will ramp up. It is an ad hoc committee so it will dissolve in March 2020 at the AGM meeting. It will be restruck. so you are looking at a year and a half on the committee.

**Nicolas:** Yes, all ad hoc committees are dissolved in the March AGM meeting and can be restruck.

**Mover:** Nicolas      **Seconder:** Arash

**Result:** For (25): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Megan Holec, Sara Hossenirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Teesha





Luehr, Arezoo M., Maria Martinez, Gloria Mellesmoen, Temitope O., Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Andras Szeitz, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner

Abstained: Timothy Luk, Nevena Rebic

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 RESULTS OF 2019 GSS-SSS

**Group responsible:** GSS Academic and External Committee / GSS Survey Coordinator

**Presentation time:** 18 minutes

**Presentation description:** The results of the 2019 GSS – SSS

**Proposed objective:** To present the highlights of the 2019 GSS - SSS results

**Relevant materials:** [GSS - SSS Presentation](#) & [GSS - SSS Annual Report](#)

**Joseph:** I noticed that some faculties are missing. Is there a reason for that?

**Gil:** In the report, we included the faculties in which we had over 50 respondents, so that the numbers have some statistical rigour. That said, if you are interested in a particular faculty, you are welcome to contact the Survey Coordinator and they will do the analysis for you.

**Victoria:** Does the question about the income of students include grants or is it just non-academic income?

**Gil:** That income would include anything that is related to your position as a graduate student at UBC. So, that would include graduate research assistantships, scholarships, teaching assistantships, etc. in addition to regular part-time jobs.

**Alireza:** What can we do to increase the participation in the survey?

**Ty:** Next month we will be introducing a motion to fix the date of the survey. A lot of surveys happen at the same time as ours – particularly the G+PS and AMS one – so that was not ideal. We will also strive to refine our communications, working with Communications Director Ben, working with you, to gather more participants.

### 5.2 ACADEMIC RENEWAL WORKING GROUP

**Group Responsible:** GSS President / Board of Governors Representatives

**Presentation time:** 10 minutes

**Presentation description:**

**Relevant materials:** [ARWG.pptx](#)



## 6 MATTERS TO NOTE

### 6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- *August 17<sup>th</sup>*: Science World on the Road @ Acadia Park
- *August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>*: Main Orientation Events (Resource and Student Activity Fair, Pancake Breakfast, MOA and Campus Tours, Koerner's Social)
- *September 6<sup>th</sup>*: Orientation Speed Friending
- *September 7<sup>th</sup>*: Orientation Lighthouse Park Hike
- *September 9<sup>th</sup>*: Orientation Pancake Breakfast 2.0
- *September 12<sup>th</sup>*: Yoga on Campus starts
- *September 13<sup>th</sup>*: Orientation Boat Cruise
- *September 17<sup>th</sup>*: French on campus starts
- *September 18<sup>th</sup>*: Zumba and Salsa on campus start

### 6.2 EXECUTIVES

#### 6.2.1 President:

- Graduate Life Center:  
Due to scheduling issues and absentees during the summer, the meeting necessary to move forward could not be held. The next scheduled attempt is on August 20th.
- Ombuds Officer Selection Committee:  
The selection process has finished. Michelle, the new Ombuds Officer will begin her service to UBC on August 15th. The GSS has prepared a goodbye gift for the outgoing officer and a welcome gift for the incoming one (Thanks Nicole).
- UBC Budget 101 and Tuition Benchmarking:  
The GSS and AMS leadership participated in a meeting with Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students; Andrew Szeri, Provost and Vice-President Academics; Peter Smailes, Vice-President Finance Operations; Pam Ratner, Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, Enrolment and Academic Facilitates; Lesley Charter-Smith, Director Strategy & Decision Support; Steve Bow, Finance.  
This meeting was leveraged to explain the issues surrounding stipends for graduate students in the research stream. Also, deficiencies in how the university runs tuition benchmarking for the research stream were pointed out.  
The GSS input was very well received and, as a result of this meeting, the Provost has reached out to the GSS President and the FGPS Dean to work together to improve this



process and prepare proposals for the University. Overall, this was an excellent result for the GSS.

- **Alumni Engagement and Fundraising:**  
The President and the VP UAA had a meeting with Heather McCaw, VP, Development and Alumni Engagement and Hillary Gosselin, AVP, Development. We have highlighted the plans for the GLC, and it was agreed that Alumni engagement would start looking for potential funding from donors.  
They have also shared their fundraising strategy and themes with us. As a result, I have asked Vivian to align our existing initiatives in a chart with the fundraising themes and the UBC strategic plan themes, so we can create a process in which the DAE can fundraise for our ongoing initiatives as well. The GSS is not equipped to do our own fundraising, but UBC seems very willing to partner and contribute. In turn, we help UBC show the initiatives on campus that donors are interested to support.
- **GSS and Sauder School of Business:**  
A meeting was held between the GSS President, GM and the representatives from Sauder School of Business for the leased ballroom. We discussed ironing out insurance, access to rooms behind the ballroom which are not included in the lease and a shared ask to UBC to improve the outdoors space around TKH.
- **Collaboration with Project Aurora:**  
Project Aurora is a student-run initiative working to bridge the barriers preventing UBC students from seeking help from mental health resources on campus. Previously, they conducted a campus-wide survey and found that while there are numerous high-quality mental health resources available for students to access, many difficulties stem from the lack of a comprehensive system to compile and share information about these resources. To solve this, they envisioned and developed a website ([CampusLightbox.com](http://CampusLightbox.com)) to consolidate information about mental health support resources on the UBC Vancouver campus. This initiative has involved a series of interviews over the past two years with professionals in the field, UBC and AMS organizational staff, as well as the student body, in order to understand the mental health needs of the UBC student community.
- The Project Aurora team is now seeking to strengthen their partnership with the GSS. I have already passed some information to Maria to add them to our website as a resource. They are now looking to add the GSS Peer Support Office as a resource on the CampusLightbox tool.
- **Collaboration with the Mental Health Network:**  
The Mental Health Network is a UBC funded and supported, student run organization that provides workshops, organizes symposiums and other activities related to wellbeing and student mental health. They are seeking to strengthen their partnership with the GSS.



We've had preliminary talks about organizing a workshop for the GSS leadership in October.

## 6.2.2 FEOO

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## 6.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

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## 6.2.4 VP External Relations

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## 6.2.5 VP Students

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## 6.3 COMMITTEES

### 6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

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### 6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

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- CPC has reviewed changes to HF and EC terms of reference, and brought these to August Council (minutes July 30). We requested a report on the proposed amendments to the Societies Act be composed by Speaker Conny Lin (July 30). CPC also provided initial feedback on the Conflict Resolution Policy received from the FEOO (July 30). By the time Council meets we expect to review the report on the Societies Act and the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee as proposed by G&A (Aug 12).

### 6.3.3 Elections Committee

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- Elections committee is working on updating the terms of reference and Policy 12 Elections procedure. Hopefully the revised terms of reference to be passed by GSS Council in August or September. The new Election Committee chair will be elected in the August monthly meeting.



## 6.3.4 Executive Committee

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## 6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

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## 6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

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- We continue to monitor the SMART Goal process for the standing committees. A final review of the FEOO's goal progress was completed and reported to council in July 2019. The committee, has also begun preparations for the end of term SMART goals review activities which will be report to council in October 2019. We also continue to track and provide support on the implementation the New Organization Charts. As we prepare for the strategic planning season, a new TOR for the strat. Plan ad hoc committee (SPAHC) has been drafted and is under review. Finally, in line with the committee's terms of reference we have begun discussions to look at balancing the governance and the accountability portfolios. This will ensure the committee does not neglect either of its portfolios, which are both integral to the functioning of the GSS.

## 6.3.7 House Finance Committee

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## 6.3.8 Human Resources

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- The Human Resources committee has reviewed the applicability of the recently approved retention bonus to the Administrative Assistant on maternity leave, Maria Popkovacheva. In line with the Human Resources Manual, which states that benefits should be maintained during maternity leave, the committee has decided to approve the disbursement of the retention bonus for the 2018/19 cycle.
- The committee has reviewed the "Federal Elections Engagement Coordinator" job description, which was submitted by the VP External. The JD has been approved and the General Manager has been instructed to set in motion the hiring process.

## 6.3.9 Services Committee

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## 6.3.10 AMS Caucus

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## 6.3.11 Graduate Council Caucus

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## 6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### 6.4.1 Senators:

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### 6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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- The next set of Board meetings will be held in September, including a joint Board and Senate Chairs meeting (Sept 11), the regular standing Board Committees and working groups (Sept 10-12, 18) and a full Board meeting at UBC Okanagan (Sept 24). The agendas will be available online closer to the dates.

## 6.5 GSS STAFF

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- GSS staff will have their retreat on Friday, August 16th. During the retreat, the staff will discuss ways in which they can help the Executives/Committees with their goals. In addition, GSS Lunch & Learn topics, potential initiatives, and professional development training workshops will be discussed during this day.
- Blinds installation for the GSS Boardroom and Study Room has been completed.
- GSS Parking Lot:
  - i. An on-site meeting was held on July 27 with GSS President, GM and UBC Parking Operation Manager. We discussed the GSS parking lot signage update as well as the towing authority.
  - ii. UBC Parking department will assist us with the creation of an installation of the signage and also assist us with the towing of unauthorized vehicles by having us to call UBC parking directly, then UBC parking can call the tow for us so the vehicle can be towed and stored in UBC lot under the agreement UBC has with Drake Towing.



- GSS Leon's Lounge and GSS Boardroom: The GSS HF Committee approves the expenditure of up to \$4500 from the capital projects and improvement fund (CPIF) to re-paint Leon's Lounge and the Boardroom and replace the existing ceiling tiles in Leon's Lounge.
  
- Building Directory:
  - i. Meeting with GSS President, GM, UBC CAD technician and G+PS rep was held on August 1st. We discussed our building directory; a draft will be provided soon.
  
- HR Updates: UBC Work and Learn program has approved all our five Work and Learn positions. (Thanks Ben)
  - i. GSS On-line Communications Coordinator
  - ii. GSS Survey Coordinator
  - iii. GSS Advocacy Coordinator
  - iv. GSS Policy Assistant
  - v. GSS Digital Communications Coordinator
  
- AcEx Hiring Committee has appointed Yu Luo as the GSS's new Survey Coordinator.
  
- Retention bonus for all full-time staff who have completed for one-year service with the GSS were processed with the July 31st payroll.
  
- Interviews for Yoga and Zumba instructors have been conducted by Nicola, Pouya and Vivian.
  
- HR committee has approved Alice Zhou's probation period. All benefits of MSP, Health and Dental Plan will be effective immediately

## 7 NOTICES

### 7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

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**Date: Thursday, September 19 at 5:30 pm**

**Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Nest**



## 7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

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- Kamaldeep Gill was unseated as Departmental Representative of Rehabilitation Sciences.
- Rahaf Al Assil was unseated as Departmental Representative of School of Population and Public Health
- Phil Angel was unseated as Departmental Representative of Zoology.
- Uyen Nguyen was unseated as Departmental Representative of Experimental Medicine
- Megan Holec was unseated as Departmental Representative of English Language and Literature

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:22 pm.

**Mover:** Nicolas

**Seconder:** Ryan

**Result:** Motion carries