



ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Abdullah Hassan, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Alejandra Botia, Alireza Kamyabi, Alison McClean, Andrew Zang, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Arwa Nemir, Axel Hauduc, Christina Weisemann, Daniel He, Erik Frieling, Georgia Yee (guest), Ginny Pichler, Gillian Glass, Hannah Green, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Julia Burnham, Kimani Karangu, Lihwen Hsu, Maryam Tayyab, Maria Jose Martinez, Mark Pampuch, Mostafa Hagar, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Nicolas Romualdi, Nevena Rebic, Perrin Waldock, Sarah Park, Saud Lingawi (guest), Shiva Zargar, Sofie McComb, Tarique Benbow, Tayo Olarewaju, Younus Ahmed, Yundi Wang, Zhenyang Xu, Ubysey News (guest).

Regrets: Nancy Yang.

Absent: Delarem Shojaei, Rio Picollo, Thomas Smith, Teesha Luehr.

Quorum: 16 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **7:00 pm**.

SPECIAL RULES ADOPTION

WHEREAS the Council has not yet established in the policy suspending of Roberts Rules of Order and,

WHEREAS a similar decision has been made in the past and proved fruitful,

BIRT the Council adopts the following special rules of order for this Council meeting:

- Each member's speaking time limit per speaking turn is 3 minutes unless extended by the Council or otherwise specified in the agenda.
- The time limit of debate for each motion is 20 minutes unless extended by the Council; and
- There is no limit on how many times a member can speak on each motion.

Mover: Sarah Park

Seconder: Kimani Karangu

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Arezoo: Point of privilege Madam Speaker, I just joined and was wondering which part of the agenda we are.

Speaker: We haven't done anything yet. We're voting on the special rules' adoption right now, we have call to order. Now the special rules adoption has been moved and seconded. Now we're on debate for the first motion. Any debate?



Arezo: I have a question; I was wondering if that 20 minutes also applies to updates. Like for update part because for update part it says that time is reserved so do, we apply those 20 minutes to that? Because my understanding at last Council meeting, after 20 minutes it said that we had no more time, when we were discussing on some updates so just wanted to ask and make sure that that's the case here.

Speaker: So, the motion right now as it says, it's a debate for each motion is 20 minutes and the time can always be extended by Council and just a reminder to everyone, this is your meeting, and you make the rules. I'm simply carrying your rules. If we want a longer discussion time, we can always extend it or change it. Last time as I remember, nobody wanted to extend time, so we had to end the discussion. Any other debates?

Tayo: I do have a suggested change. Just taken a look at the agenda, for committee seating's, it appears that the Executive Oversight Committee is missing.

Speaker: Can you hold that thought please? Because next thing is agenda adoption. That would be perfect for that motion.

Tayo: Ok, thank you.

VOTES

FOR (21): Shiva Zargar, Erik Frieling, Younus Ahmed, Kimani Karangu, Maria Jose Martinez, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Jenny Lee, Jackson Schumacher, Arwa Nemir, Julia Burnham, Mostafa Hagar, Nicolas Romualdi, Nevena Rebic, Yundi Wang, Daniel He, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Axel Hauduc, Andrew Zang, Sarah Park, Alireza Kamyabi, Aaron Loewen.

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi

Second: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Tayo: I was wondering why it says that we have 5 Ordinary Members and 5 Councillor member openings on EOC because we do have current members.

Speaker: Tayo, in this meeting, all the committees are being re-seated, so they all have vacancies.

Tayo: Yes, I understand all committees are being unseated but I also thought they would be re-seated, because I can see other committees have names of current members, just EOC doesn't, I don't have everyone's names right now but I can look it up.

Speaker: I can go in accordance with the list that was sent to me. Kimani, Nicolas, I see you. But I'm still with Tayo right now.



Nicolas: Slight point of order. I was going to wait for my turn, but this is taking a little longer. This is not an agenda amendment, it's an amendment to an item of the agenda so we should do it when we're in the main motion, and not at this time, and in the meantime, Tayo can prepare the list. This is just procedurally not correct in my interpretation.

Speaker: I'll take this as a point of order, and I agree with you. Tayo, since it's not critical to add the names right now, we can do it during the committee seating's, and this will give us a bit of time to add them in, is that ok?

Tayo: Yes, that's ok.

Kimani: Madam Speaker, I would want to move to amend the agenda as presented, to strikeout the expedient matters 1.1, following that we didn't have quorum at AGM so therefore, states that the AdHoc committee remains so this motion would be considered out of order, so I would want to remove it from there.

Mover: Kimani Karangu **Seconded:** Nicolas Romualdi **Result:** Carried

Speaker: Any debate on striking 1.1? Any objections? Seeing none, I'll take this out of the agenda. Anything else?

Arezo: Point of privilege Madam Speaker, I don't know somehow again I can't find the polly. Could you remind me where to find it?

Speaker: For those of you who don't know where to vote, go to Voting Council members, Council meetings and that is where you can find the vote.

VOTES

FOR (27): Lihwen Hsu, Axel Hauduc, Alison McClean, Gillian Glass, Shiva Zargar, Jin Wen, Arezo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Nicolas Romualdi, Daniel He, Kimani Karangu, Arwa Nemir, Julia Burnham, Nevena Rebic, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Yundi Wang, Andrew Zang, Jenny Lee, Alireza Kamyabi, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Mostafa Hagar, Aaron Loewen, Younus Ahmed, Jackson Schumacher, Sarah Park, Maria Jose Martinez, Ginny Pichler, Hannah Green.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you madam speaker. 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. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

DISCUSSION

Speaker: As per usual, we're skipping the introductions.



Kimani: Unless we have new members.

Kimani: Madam Speaker, point of information. I would like to provide some information to let members know that today we have invited Ubbyse, the news from UBC. They're in the house so therefore everything that we do is going to be in public record, so we have media in the house.

Speaker: Thank you and welcome. I was also told that the VPUAA from AMS is also present?

Speaker: Mark from Botany are you here, would you like to introduce yourself?

Mark: Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. My name is Mark Pampuch, the representative for the Botany Department. I moved here from Toronto and I'm excited to get to represent my Department.

Speaker: Thank you and welcome. Maria, as I understand you're not new?

Maria: I'm definitely not new. I've been the rep for Curriculum and Pedagogy for 3 years I think, it's been an honor and happy to be here still.

Speaker: Thank you and welcome back. Jenny Lee, Experimental Medicine?

Jenny: Hi, I'm also not new. This is my second year of my master's and been at the GSS for 1 year, and also happy to continue to be a Departmental Representative.

Speaker: Thank you. This is good, we take turns to introduce ourselves. Perrin, Physics and Astronomy.

Perrin: Hi my name is Perrin Waldock and as it says I'm the Departmental Representative for Physics and Astronomy. Although I'm actually an Engineering Physics student which is a little bit different from most of the students there. This is my first time serving at GSS and excited to see how I can help out.

Speaker: Thank you, Perrin. I tend to butcher people's names so please don't hesitate to correct me. Jin Wen, Psychology, you're returning as well.

Jin: Yes, hi everybody. My name is Jin, like Jenny this is my 2nd year at GSS. I'm excited to continue, this is my first year of PhD.

Speaker: Thank you everyone and welcome.

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- September 17th, 2020

Mover: Aaron Loewen

Second: Kimani Karangu

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Jin: May I amend G&A minutes before we approve?

Speaker: We're not there yet.



Jin: Oh sorry.

Speaker: I have G&A Chair on the Speaker's list.

Jin: Hi I just wanted to amend the minutes for G&A, I believe I accidentally submitted the July 23rd minutes previously and wanted to get that removed.

Speaker: You probably want to mention it again when we go to Committee minutes. Hold that thought ok?

Jin: Sorry, my bad.

Speaker: No worries. Any debates?

Arezo: I have a concern, I would say. I looked at the minutes quickly yesterday and I would like first to thank our acting AA for making the minutes and I would say this is very normal, it happens every Council meeting and even me as a Chair, always happens that there are typos and grammar things that need to be fixed. I just had a quick review yesterday and found that there are quite grammatical errors that could be fixed, and I think it's appropriate that we look at it again and also some typos. I can't clearly remember but for example, I remember motive as motivation was written as motif. So, I think those are better to be polished because these are public documents and we're going to send them to the government. With this being said, also, myself I wanted to look at the last 20 minutes of the last meeting minutes because there were some discussions and matters that are important and I want to make sure they're correctly written. So, I was wondering if President could explain if I can have access to the recording of the September meeting. Thank you.

Speaker: Arezo, are you moving any amendment to the minutes?

Arezo: I can make a move. I don't have the amendment right now because I didn't write it down honestly. I was very busy; I couldn't write it down. I was just looking quickly. So, what I'm suggesting, I can move that the minutes be reviewed again, and the corrections be done. I remember for example in the past, some others were doing it, I can suggest that but again, I can make a move that those minutes be reviewed. I didn't write it down anything like past Council.

Speaker: What I can do here is give you some options. One is not passing the minutes, basically fail these minutes and then fix whatever needs to be fixed and then come back next meeting or we need to list the things we need to fix and pass that together with this. The third option is to pass a motion saying we'll pass the minutes in contingent of the typos being fixed. Any of the 3 options suit your desire?

Arezo: I think that the 1st and 2nd one would be better, but I think that I can consider the 1st one. But again, it's a matter of who will review this as well. Either President and G&A can review again and make sure because also, somehow, some parts are important to listen to the recording again as well because the way I was reading it, I felt the recording could be listened again.

Speaker: Arezo, as a Speaker I can only act on your wishes so what are you proposing? Do you want to propose these minutes be postponed and reviewed by a particular body? Or what would you like to do?

Arezo: Yes, I can move that and see what the wish of Council is. I move that the minutes be reviewed by President and corrected and then come back for voting on the next Council meeting.



Speaker: This is basically in opposite to the motion, basically BIRT to approve the minutes so any seconder to this motion? I need a seconder for this motion to be considered. For the minutes to be reviewed by President and be voted in the next meeting. Everyone remember our meeting rules, I you would like to speak, type on the chat and say "Speak" and I'll recognize you because there's people before you. Was somebody speaking?

Mover: Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi **Seconder:** **Result:** Failed

Speaker: Sorry, I don't hear any seconder to this motion, so this motion will not be considered by the assembly. The next person on the speaker's list is Kimani, Mr. President.

Kimani: Thank you Madam Speaker for that and I think Madam Speaker I would want to speak to the minutes that we're about to approve is that we transcribe these minutes verbatim and therefore I would wish that members approve them. And I think I yield.

Speaker: Any other debates from the minutes? Same drill, I'll setup a motion.

Julia: Can you hear me? Perfect. Just wanted to make a note that perhaps moving forward it would be a better practice for folks to submit amendments to the minutes ahead of the Council meeting just so that we can move on expediently with our agenda.

Speaker: Thank you.

Kimani: Madam Speaker if I may continue speaking while you sort your issue out. I would want to echo on what Julia, our member, is talking about. And of course, as we understand and as I said, we transcribe these minutes verbatim and I think it would also be appropriate for members, once they go through the minutes and realize an issue with the minutes, it would be good to shout out to the President to point out some of these things, given that some of the minutes are longer, 30 pages or so, it would be good. As I have always said, GSS is one and will always play on the same side, team GSS, so it would be for the benefit of all of us if we were to improve how we want other people to look and see us. So, instead of waiting to point fingers at others and trying to, you know, maybe not appreciate so much what other people do. But I understand, it's human and we will do all that we can to make sure that we do a good and proper representation of the will of the people.

Arezoo: For sure, I appreciate the suggestion but would like to say that I'm disagreeing that I'm point to someone or whatsoever, that's an incorrect statement and not appropriate. I'm not pointing to anyone or anything. I'm just raising a concern and unfortunately again, I didn't have time to write it down but sure, it makes sense that we send these ahead of time. I appreciate all the comments but saying those kinds of things are not appropriate. I'm not pointing to anyone and I just wanted to ask my question and I don't like that be translated to something that is not.

Speaker: Thank you Arezoo. Any additional debate on the minutes? If not, let's vote.

VOTES

FOR (26): Gillian Glass, Jenny Lee, Alejandra Botia, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Abdullah Hassan, Mostafa Hagar, Kimani Karangu, Lihwen Hsu, Alison McClean, Aaron Loewen, Jackson Schumacher, Shiva Zargar,



Sarah Park, Jin Wen, Andrew Zang, Yundi Wang, Nicolas Romualdi, Julia Burnham, Nevena Rebic, Arwa Nemir, Daniel He, Axel Hauduc, Maryam Tayyab, Maria Jose Martinez, Alireza Kamyabi.

AGAINST (1): Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi

1.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	July 2 nd , 2020, August 6 th & August 17 th , 2020	Human Resources Committee:	July 16 th , 2020
Code and Policy Committee:	August 12 th , 2020 & September 23 rd , 2020	Services Committee:	August 13 th , 2020 & September 16 th , 2020
Elections Committee:	October 8 th , 2020	AMS Caucus:	
Executive Committee:	September 11 th , 2020	Graduate Council:	
Executive Oversight Committee:	August 4 th , 2020 & September 7 th , 2020	House Finance Committee:	July 8 th & 27 th , 2020, August 12 th & 26 th , 2020, September 10 th & 24 th , 2020
Governance & Accountability Committee:	August 6 th , 10 th and 27 th , 2020 & September 9 th , 2020	Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:	September 3 rd , 2020
All Chairs:	August 14 th , 2020		

Mover: Jackson Schumacher **Seconded:** Andrew Zang **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Jin: Yes, hi. May we remove the July 23rd minutes for G&A because I believe I submitted those last month.

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

Speaker: Any opposed? Since this is not a controversial proposal, I'm asking if there are any opposed. If you oppose, please type something in the chat. If none, motion carried. We will proceed without the July 23rd, 2020 minutes from G&A. Any other debates?

Arezoo: Point of privilege, are we voting now?

Speaker: Yes, we are.

Arezoo: It doesn't appear on my page so please consider me as yes. I used the polly, not sure why it didn't show in my screen.

Speaker: Minute taker, please record this vote and include it.



VOTES

FOR (27): Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Hannah Green, Daniel He, Alejandra Botia, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Axel Hauduc, Mostafa Hagar, Ginny Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Younus Ahmed, Shiva Zargar, Lihwen Hsu, Alison McClean, Maria Jose Martinez, Kimani Karangu, Abdullah Hassan, Alireza Kamyabi, Sarah Park, Gillian Glass, Yundi Wang, Arwa Nemir, Andrew Zang, Aaron Loewen, Julia Burnham, Jenny Lee, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

2 SEATINGS

2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Mark Pampuch	Botany
Maria Jose Athie Martinez	Curriculum and Pedagogy
Jenny Lee	Experimental Medicine
Perrin Waldock	Physics and Astronomy
Jin Wen	Psychology

Mover: Kimani Karangu

Seconded: Aaron Loewen

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: If you have trouble with voting, you could leave a message on the Council voting members chat here so we have a written record of your voting preference.

VOTES

FOR (24): Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Julia Burnham, Axel Hauduc, Jackson Schumacher, Sarah Park, Kimani Karangu, Mostafa Hagar, Hannah Green, Daniel He, Abdullah Hassan, Alejandra Botia, Alison McClean, Gillian Glass, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Shiva Zargar, Ginny Pichler, Yundi Wang, Andrew Zang, Maryam Tayyab, Aaron Loewen, Lihwen Hsu, Arwa Nemir.

ABSTAIN (4): Jin Wen, Younus Ahmed, Maria Jose Martinez, Jenny Lee.



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
AMS Caucus	Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Maryam Tayyab, Alexa Tanner	Representative	4
Graduate Council	Alejandra Botia, Shiva Zargar, Erik Frieling, Maryam Tayyab	Representative	5
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	2
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi **Seconded:** Maryam Tayyab **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Any discussion on this?

Nicolas: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would just like to remind all Councillors and all Ordinary Members attending the meeting that even though there are people pre-nominated for these positions, everyone is welcome to nominate themselves and if we have to hold an election, we will, there's absolutely no problem with that. And also, I'd like to point out the fact that we have one more open seat in Grad Council so just to put a shout out there to join. Exciting times to join Grad Council, happy to take any questions about it. Thank you.

Speaker: Grad Council and Faculty of Arts is already motivated for right Nicolas?

Nicolas: I can't really speak to the Faculty of Arts Council too much other than Faculty of Arts Council was an extended opportunity that the Faculty gave us to be able to participate in decision making in Arts so if there's Arts students particularly, any Grad Student is welcome, but if you're a student in the Arts that would like to join, it's a good opportunity. It's a lot less commitment than Grad Council and maybe Jackson may want to motivate AMS even though I see he's already secured his 4 team members.

Kimani: Thank you Madam Speaker, I think Nicolas has addressed the issue I wanted to address, so I yield.

Speaker: Anybody else? Last call for nominations.



VOTES

FOR (26): Nicolas Romualdi, Shiva Zargar, Gillian Glass, Sarah Park, Maria Jose Martinez, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Daniel He, Mark Pampuch, Aaron Loewen, Jackson Schumacher, Arwa Nemir, Hannah Green, Perrin Waldock, Alireza Kamyabi, Mostafa Hagar, Yundi Wang, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Kimani Karangu, Nevena Rebic, Jenny Lee, Andrew Zang, Abdullah Hassan, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Julia Burnham, Alison McClean, Jin Wen.

2.3 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:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External	Julia Burnham, Arwa Nemir, Alison McClean, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Yundi Wang	Councillor	5
	Sofie McComb, Sean Ritter, Smruthi Ramachandran, Zakhar Krekhno	Ordinary Member	5
Code & Policy	Aaron Loewen, Daniel He, Alison McClean	Councillor	5
	Heather Worthington, Mahdi Izadi	Ordinary Member	5
Elections	Mostafa Hagar, Alejandra Botia, Abdullah Hassan, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Mark Pampuch	Councillor	5
	Arjav Shah	Ordinary Member	5
Executive Oversight	Daniel He, Abdullah Hassan, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Julia Burnham, Tarique Benbow	Councillor	5
	Kouther Nouredine, Nicolas Phin	Ordinary Member	5
Governance & Accountability	Jin Wen, Virginia Pichler, Jenny Lee, Alireza Kamyabi, Axel Hauduc	Councillor	5
	Mohammadali Shahsavari, Avery Newman-Simmons	Ordinary Member	5
House Finance	Maria Jose Athie-Martinez, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Delaram Shojaei	Councillor	5
	Devarsh Bhonde, Christina Weisemann, Shiming Wu	Ordinary Member	5
Human Resources	Gillian Glass, Aaron Loewen, Zhangyang Xu	Councillor	5



	Zohreh Sharafianardakani, Kevin Gonzalez	Ordinary Member	5
Services	Andrew Zang, Mostafa Hagar, Daniel He, Erik Frieling, Perrin Waldock	Councillor	5
	Jennifer Lipka, Rosanne Tam, Graham Donen	Ordinary Member	5
Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee	Jackson Schumacher, Shiva Zargar, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Lihwen Hsu, Axel Hauduc	Councillor	4
	Avery Newman-Simmons (G&A)	Ordinary Member	3 + 1 G&A Member

Mover: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi **Seconder:** Jackson Schumacher **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: As we know, Committees will be reseated at this Council. Julia, your floor. Julia, we can't hear you, so I'll go to Tayo while you fix the audio issue.

Arezoo: Point of privilege, I put my name to speak after Julia.

Speaker: I'm sorry, let me double check. Your floor Arezoo.

Arezoo: Yes, could you please remove my name from membership at HR? I decided to step down from HR as a member and chair. Unfortunately, I don't have time to continue to serve. I was struggling whether to come or not and last minute I decided not to continue with HR, I really don't have time. It was a great time working for HR, but I would appreciate it if you could remove my name from HR Committee. And also, for the next one that is chair ship, automatically my name should be removed.

Speaker: The chair I will deal with it later. Since this is a nomination, the person needs to agree to it. So Arezoo, you're removing yourself, so it doesn't need any seconder or anything. Now I'm recognizing Julia, she would like to ask to add a candidate from Ordinary member.

Tayo: I would like to state that currently EOC has 5 councillors and 2 ordinary members.

Speaker: Could you help me with the names?

Tayo: I can post them on the chat.

Speaker: Tayo while you do that, can I move to the HF Committee Chair and then move back to you?

Tayo: Ok.

Christina: I just wanted to amend the Ordinary Members. So, Karen would not like to be reseated as a member and then Shiming Wu would like to be seated as an Ordinary member.



Speaker: I presume that everyone nominated here has received consent from the nominee? And give me a second everyone while I input Tayo's list.

Tarique: Madam Speaker I yield my time. Thank you.

Jackson: Under the Strategic Planning Committee, I believe I'm listed as AMS Caucus representative. I don't think the committee has an AMS Representative though I'd like to stay in the list of Councillors. I believe that refers to perhaps my position in AcEx so I believe this is not something we have to vote on but Julia can confirm that.

Speaker: Ok so you mean the 4+1 AMS Caucus member? That's supposed to be AcEx?

Jackson: I believe so.

Speaker: I'm going to call Nicolas, so VP Academic, do you know anything about it? If not, I'll pass to President. Strategic Planning AdHoc Committee, we have 1 AMS Caucus member to be seated in there, is that correct?

Nicolas: I don't recall out of the top of my head; we would have to go back to TOR's. Maybe Alireza, the previous chair can answer that.

Alireza: No, it's not mandatory.

Speaker: Jackson what would you like to do?

Jackson: Just strike the thing in parenthesis and the +1 Caucus member.

Andrew: Madam Speaker I have a last-minute edit on the Services Committee as well under Councillor? Could you please remove Hannah Green's name, unfortunately we were unable to accommodate her schedule for the time being.

Mostafa: I was wondering if this is the correct agenda item where I would motivate for the committee?

Speaker: Yes, thank you. Any committee chair or member can motivate on behalf of the committee, please let me know and I will let you do so.

Mostafa: So, the Elections committee, 2 of our members are graduating this December so I'm hoping to pick up some new people. Basically, this year we're working on 2 things. One is trying to set new rules for the next election because last years was quite controversial and the other thing we're working on is collaborating with Services Committee on a bunch of initiatives to help improve student engagement and improve voter turnout and to get more people to run for positions. And I think this would be a pretty good place to start because you get to see a bit of event organizing and marketing and stuff and see the policy side of things. And as I mentioned, 2 of our members will be graduating in a couple of months so we're also really in need of Councillors. Can I just nominate a random person? I nominate Perrin from Physics.

Speaker: Perrin, do you accept this nomination?

Perrin: I would prefer to nominate myself for Services. I would like to think about the Elections nomination for a few minutes and then I may nominate myself in the future if I think that it would work.



Kimani: I also wanted to motivate for committees and make a note that in AcEx, the previous chair had requested the name of Shiming Wu to be removed.

Speaker: Perrin I'll recognize you again. You would like to nominate yourself for Services correct?

Perrin: Yes.

Mark: I would like to take the Elections chair offer to be a Councillor on the Elections Committee.

Speaker: Great and may I confirm you're a new councillor?

Mark: Yes.

Speaker: Tayo can you double check if the list is correct on the screen for EOC?

Tayo: Yes, it's correct.

Speaker: Anything else you'd like to mention?

Tayo: No, thank you.

Arezoo: I just wanted to make sure that my name was crossed out from HR. Somehow in my screen I can't see the cross out and I just wanted to make sure it happened.

Speaker: It is crossed out here. Anybody else? Last call?

Abdullah: I would like to nominate someone for the Elections Committee as Ordinary Member. I can type their name in the chat.

Speaker: Does this person accept the nomination?

Abudullah: Yes, I just spoke to him.

Nicolas: Thank you Madam Speaker, if you could scroll down a bit so that I can see the HR Committee. That's 3 members, that's barely quorum before we count the President. We're in the middle of trying to hire an Administrative Assistant and I would encourage any member who has not made any decision particularly the newly seated Councillors, if they could consider seating in HR to facilitate quorum. Absence of quorum in HR right now can have a severely negative impact on the operation of the Society. Thank you.

Speaker: President may I motivate?

President: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: I'm going to motivate on behalf of HR Committee. If you would like to get a job later and know how the job interviewers are thinking, this is exactly the committee you should join. You would be the interviewer, be on the other side of the table. The things that you learn will really benefit you for long term, especially when you graduate right away, you're probably not going to have this position very soon and it would put you in a huge advantage over the other job seekers. I'll wait for a little bit more.



Aaron: I would nominate myself for HR Committee.

Andrew: I guess since we're not going through the regular schedule of motivating, I just wanted to say a quick few thing about the Services Committee. Currently we are working on a few new SMART goals that we will be revamping from our previous ones. We have a lot of exciting stuff going down as the Elections Chair mentioned earlier, we have some collaborative efforts going on to look into representation from different departments and participation from the Graduate Community. We have a lot of work cut out for us and a lot of exciting things coming up if anybody is interested in taking part in this, it's the perfect time to join. We're just about to get started on that so everyone is welcome, thank you.

Julia: Can I nominate Zhangyang Xu from Educational Studies to the Human Resources Committee?

Speaker: Zhangyang do you accept? If the person doesn't accept, they can reject later according to Roberts Rules. Any further nominations? Seeing none, I'm sending out the vote.

VOTES

FOR (26): Jin Wen, Younus Ahmed, Julia Burnham, Nicolas Romualdi, Alejandra Botia, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Nevena Rebic, Mostafa Hagar, Axel Hauduc, Ginny Pichler, Shiva Zargar, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Gillian Glass, Aaron Loewen, Yundi Wang, Jackson Schumacher, Abdullah Hassan, Lihwen Hsu, Alison McClean, Perrin Waldock, Kimani Karangu, Andrew Zang, Jenny Lee, Arwa Nemir, Maria Jose Martinez, Daniel He.

ABSTAIN (1): Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi.

2.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Andrew Zang as Chair for Services Committee.

Aaron Loewen as Chair for Code and Policy Committee.

Mostafa Hagar as Chair for Elections Committee.

Julia Burnham as Chair for Academic and External Committee.

Devarsh Bhonde as Chair for House Finance Committee.

Jin Wen as Chair for Governance and Accountability Committee.

Gillian Glass as Chair for Human Resources Committee.

Jackson Schumacher as Chair for Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

Jackson Schumacher as Chair for AMS Caucus.



Mover: Abdullah Hassan **Seconded:** Aaron Loewen **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Arezoo: I just wanted to make sure that my name is crossed as a chair.

Speaker: Thank you, that's important that you did that. Since you're the person nominated you have every right to take your name out.

Kimani: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to nominate Gillian as the Chair for HR.

Speaker: Gillian do you accept?

Gillian: Yes, I do. Thank you, Kimani.

Nicolas: Since the President beat me to the nomination, I would just like to throw in my full support for the nomination of Gillian Glass for the chair of the Human Resources Committee. As for every other chair that is listed in that motion. I applaud the distinguished members that will lead us in this next year.

Kimani: Madam Speaker, I would like to highlight a few things about the committee leadership. We've had a very great session. I think since May we've hold monthly meetings with the committee chairs where we have been supporting each other and trying to share notes on what committees are doing and I have seen a lot of improvement and a lot of commitment and we're able to achieve a lot as you can tell from the motions that are passed on the floor, they're well thought of and teased out. And I want to thank all of them for their dedication including Arezoo who has decided to step down. I thank all of them for this and want to encourage that we continue doing this and I would also want to encourage, if you look at the list you find that most of them are male. I would also like to encourage female student Councillors elected to please also step forward and lead some of these chair committees. I want to thank all of those who have been leading these committees, and this is my simplest pledge. So that at least we can have some sort of equity, diversity and all that in our committees. But again, it's a willing approach but I would also like to encourage that. Secondly, I would also want to say that whatever the committees do is what propels the GSS. Because it's for them to make the minutes in their committees, it's them that make the agendas and set goals. They lead themselves to do these things, so I salute all of them for their dedication to seeing that GSS moves ahead. I'm moved by all that they give to make sure we go ahead. This is what I've also been talking about and I will say it again, it shows the spirit of teamwork and it is not for us as individuals but us as a community, the GSS community, and I owe them if I may say so, but I'm very happy for that. So, I encourage all of your members and specially the chairs to appoint their deputies so at least when the transition time comes in, it becomes an easier process of transition.

Abdullah: I had a concern in the committee chairs seating's, I don't see the chair for Executive Oversight Committee.

Speaker: Executive Oversight Committee I believe is automatically Tayo, is that correct?

Kimani: Yes, automatically the FEOO.

Speaker: Any other debate on the seatings of chairs? Thank you, Kimani, for your touching speech.



VOTES

FOR (21): Tayo Olarewaju, Daniel He, Nicolas Romualdi, Jenny Lee, Alison McClean, Gillian Glass, Lihwen Hsu, Yundi Wang, Perrin Waldock, Kimani Karangu, Maria Jose Martinez, Ginny Pichler, Axel Hauduc, Alejandra Botia, Shiva Zargar, Nevena Rebic, Jin Wen, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Abdullah Hassan, Mark Pampuch, Alireza Kamyabi.

ABSTAIN (5): Aaron Loewen, Jackson Schumacher, Julia Burnham, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Andrew Zang.

3 MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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

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

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Neuroscience Graduate Students Association	Yundi Wang
Pathology Student Society	Raelyn Gallant

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

VOTES

FOR (23): Alejandra Botia, Nicolas Romualdi, Sarah Park, Perrin Waldock, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Jackson Schumacher, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Julia Burnham, Gillian Glass, Shiva Zargar, Jin Wen, Jenny Lee, Kimani Karangu, Maria Jose Martinez, Mark Pampuch, Axel Hauduc, Abdullah Hassan, Daniel He, Aaron Loewen, Andrew Zang, Lihwen Hsu, Alison McClean.

ABSTAIN (1): Yundi Wang.

4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 BC PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Group Responsible: VP External

Description: Provide a summary of the Take It Over voter mobilization campaign.

Proposed Objective: Inform Council.

Time: 10 minutes



Supporting Documents: pending

DISCUSSION

Gillian: Hi, can you hear me? Thank you, Madam Chair. First of all, I would like to thank the committee and the Chairperson for both this excellent presentation and some truly outstanding work to support democracy and voting amongst the Graduate Student population at the University of British Columbia. Also, just to highlight the importance of voting if you're eligible to vote, no vote is ever wasted, so please get yourself to the polls, cast your ballots, it really matters. I have a question about the BC Elections 101 series. First, I think this is brilliant so fantastic that this is being organized, I really support this. My question is, what was the process for selecting speakers for this series, there are many many distinguished professors at UBC and there are also lots of political science experts who don't work within the academy, although we have ready access to those who work within the academy. And so, I'm wondering what that process was, how they were selected, whether multiple other people were approached and what the process was and just so that it doesn't sound implicit, I'll make my question explicit, we have a very diverse student body here at UBC and I'm just a little concerned with the appearing lack of diversity of the speakers themselves.

Alireza: Thank you Madam Speaker and thank you for the member for their question. That's an excellent point. As you might know, this Provincial election was called very fast, it was a snap election. We reached out to multiple political science professors as fast as we could to be able to make sure that we setup the events as soon as we can. I take your point that we could have diverse speakers and I'll do my best to make sure that the diversity of our student body is also represented on our speakers that we engage. Thank you.

4.2 OPEN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Group Responsible: AMS VP Academic and University Affairs

Description: #TextbookBroke - and the Drive for Open Access and Open Scholarship.

Proposed Objective: Inform Council.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: pending

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Georgia, sorry to interrupt but just to remind you that your time is up. May I ask for an extension for the Council for this presentation? I need somebody to move. How many minutes do you need?

Georgia: I can be pretty quick like 5 minutes tops as an extension. That'd be great.

Speaker: Ok great. I know you from AMS, so you're used to having AMS Council.

Mover: Nevena Rebic

Second: Shiva Zargar

Result: Carried

Speaker: This motion would be for a 5-minute extension. Any opposed? Seeing no opposition, Georgia please continue.

Nicolas: Thank you Madam Speaker. I would just like to weigh a little bit because I do have the privilege of working with Georgia on a day to day basis. But I did want to highlight after her presentation, things that may not be obvious to the GSS and may have flown under the GSS radar for many years, how important it is that we pay attention to obstacles to course-based education in terms of accessibility, not only to Undergraduate degrees but Graduate degrees and to Grad School. Because it is one of our objectives as the GSS and as showed in our constitution, that we



lower barriers to access to Graduate School and in order to access Graduate School, you need to finish your Undergraduate school. So, it's not completely outside our mandate to ally ourselves with our sister organization in these sorts of initiatives to facilitate a more affordable undergraduate education that then in turn, lowers the barrier for Grad Education. And the other aspect is that it's very important to consider that almost 50% of GSS members take courses. We sometimes forget that because most of us start participating actively in the GSS once we reach the thesis stage of our research program but almost 33% of our members don't have a thesis in their program, they're course-based and another 33% are master's in research programs that half of their time, approximately, is spent on courses. So, issues that affect course affordability, course environment, classroom experience, even though the AMS is being the greatest champion, they are relevant to the GSS and it's important that we hear about these issues in the GSS and that we actively participate in this conversation and of course, naturally, work with the AMS who also brings this wealth of experience, expertise and resources and the information from all the other courses that we don't necessarily get first time information. I'm getting close to my time, so I'll wrap it there.

Alireza: Thank you Madam Speaker. First, I'd like to thank Georgia for coming in and making this wonderful presentation in GSS Council. I'd also like to add that open education resources have been a focus for the VP External Departments I know at the AMS and GSS for the past little while. On the GSS side, exactly because of what Nicolas brought up. Roughly half of our constituency, take courses and so we take our advocacy for open education resources very seriously. Our advocacy so far, it's 3.6 million dollars towards open education from the Ministry of advanced education with the latest round coming at 275 thousand dollars, announced just 4 months ago on July 15th. This is something that AMS and GSS are focusing on together to make sure that we get resources towards those institutions, specially BC campus, that has provided with a lot of open education resources that reduce textbooks costs. So again, I'd like to thank Georgia for coming in and this will be a priority for us going forward.

4.3 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Group Responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Description: September 2020 GSS Financial Overview.

Proposed Objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [September Financial Updates.pptx](#)

5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

DISCUSSION

Nicolas: Madam Speaker if I may make a comment on my own updates, particularly not my own but Grad Council. I thought I was going to get a question on this but in case somebody missed it, there's been substantial movement in the front of raising the minimum funding for PhD students. And we'll likely be able to achieve to increase to at least 22k effective September 1st, 2021. So, I'm not sure if that wasn't clear or there weren't any questions, or some members may have missed it, but I wanted to draw attention that that and thank all the other members of Grad Council for the help in advocating on this front.



Speaker: Wow, I'm speechless. You guys have been working on this for many years. Great news. Any other updates?

5.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Latin Funk and Yoga virtual classes
- Fall Paint Night
- Managing Debt Webinar
- Rainbow Speed Friending
- Professional Headshots

5.2 EXECUTIVES

5.2.1 President

- **Anti-racism Taskforce**
 - Updated and discussed major steps taken with Dr. Ono, who is very supportive of the idea.
 - The committee has converged, and members are working on individual aspects as highlighted during the meeting. Mostly, identified key areas where multiple layers of discrimination and racism are rampant.
 - Taskforce will spread wings and work with other likeminded organs on campus.
- **Meetings with Dr. Ono**
 - COVID1-19 has dealt a major blow to most universities financially but UBC has not been thrown off the balance as we started from a better position. There are certainly many issues with quarantining students. UBC is still working to try to get over the good hotel to international students who want to be I Vancouver (face to face). However, it has not been straightforward how students will be getting here but UBC will continue to advocate for students all ways possible.
 - There is a need for both the GSS and UBC to insist on passing the message that if anyone withing our bubble have symptoms of COVID-19, they should strive to at stay home, call 811 for further guidance we all acknowledge how fortunate we are in BC compared to other places we have a much more efficient system.
 - There is a need to encourage our constituencies to observe the mandatory mask decision. GSS is in support of the decision.
- **Mental Health of new graduate students**
 - Both the GSS and UBC should strive to work on together in forecasting what coming terms will look like. COVID -19 has brought many changes and new issues are going to come up, which will call for tight collaborations and critical focus on (talking about and acting upon). Particularly the mental health of new graduate who may feel isolated. Furthermore, a continuous dialogue should be maintained due concerned international students joining our campus.
- **Alumni UBC Advisory Council Meeting**
 - Attended and participated in the alumni UBC Advisory Council Meeting held online.
- **Open Session Board of Governors Meeting**
 - Attended and presented at the Open Session Board of Governors Meeting (AMS and GSS jointly) raised key issues. (visit the site)
- **Search for the next GSS's AA**
 - Involved in the entire process: screening, interviewing and negotiating (still ongoing).



-
- **Speed friending**
 - MCed for the entire sessions and welcomed new graduate students together with VPS and Events manager. Great feedback I hear!
 - **A student Rep leader (member) of the search committee: Senior Director Student Engagement position at UBC**
 - Mandated to recommend to the Vice President, Students and the Vice President, Human Resources a candidate for the Senior Director Student Engagement position.
 - **A member Rep leader (Member) of the search committee: Respondent Resource Specialist position at UBC**
 - Mandated to recommend to the Vice President, Students and the Vice President, Human Resources a candidate for the Respondent Resource Specialist position.
 - **GSS Archiving**
 - Held several meetings with Nicole, developing procedures on how best to continue archiving GSS related documents. There are documents available since 2016 (mainly from council and committee that need proper categorization and filing, conversion into suitable format and much more. This project has since grown to a situation where 'professional' input is required. I suggest we hire a WLP from Archiving school. For various reasons: 1. GSS has no permanent AA as of now (EM has generously been a great asset), 2. Current acting AA will need a break soon, 3. The amount of work and the level of detail needed is more for a new AA should we get one soon.
 - **GSS and G+PS Monthly Meeting**
 - In collaboration with the seasoned current VPUAA presented strong case to drive graduate students from 'systemic poverty' for example the 4YF.

5.2.2 FEOO

-
- Engaged in reviewing some revised Departmental budgets with the House Finance committee.

5.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

-
- **Support for Graduate Student Survivors of Sexual Assault**
 - The GSS advocacy office, in collaboration with SASC, has set up a support group tailored to the needs of graduate students who have experienced sexual violence. The groups is co-facilitated by a GSS advocacy coordinator and a SASC support worker. There has already been uptake and the group will meet biweekly. Increased support or resources will be explored if uptake increases.
 - **Food insecurity assessment framework project**
 - The GSS VP UAA will start directing a project in collaboration with the leader of the Food Insecurity Core Team and a SEEDS coordinator to develop a framework to quantitatively and qualitatively assess personal and communal food insecurity on the UBC campus. The project is fully funded by a UBC a sustainability scholar has been hired. The project will kick off early November.
 - **Immediate Food Relief for Graduate Students with Families**
 - A proposal has been developed in collaboration with the AMS foodbank to, among other things, set up a secondary food bank location at Acadia Park to facilitate access to food for families with young children, which are a particularly vulnerable population.
 - **Financial Support for Graduate Students**



-
- A proposal has been developed with GPS and presented to graduate council to increase the minimum PhD funding from 18k CAD to 22k CAD effective Sep 1st, 2021. Successful advocacy has led to the proposal currently enjoying a significant level of support. It is going out to broad consultation to faculties and programs and will likely be voted on before the end of the calendar year.
 - **Graduate Student Bursary Impact Assessment**
 - The GSS VP UAA office is being supported by enrollment services to analyze the usage of the Graduate Student Bursary to identify patterns that may be key to identifying other systemic issues and developing more targeted proposals.
 - **Graduate Life Centre**
 - Additional funding (on top of the 1.2 M) available through the Provost office has been repurposed to finish the remaining studies to be able to submit an Executive 1+2 proposal. There have been some minor delays as a result of lack of availability of the consultant teams which had committed to other projects before we could secure the seed funding.
 - **AP15 Consultation**
 - The GSS was asked to participate in the consultation for the review of Policy AP15 "Administrative Associate Vice-Presidents Appointment and Review Policy". A [submission](#) was made highlighting the importance of job security for non-academic AVPs and improved oversight and accountability for key decision makers in the University.

5.2.4 VP External

- **2020 BC Provincial Election & Voter Mobilization Campaign**
 - UBC GSS has been undertaking an intensive voter mobilization campaign in the last month. The campaign includes multiple parallel initiatives with the ultimate goal ensuring graduate student voices and issues are represented this election. These initiatives include 1) collaborating with student societies from across BC as part of the 'Take It Over' voter mobilization campaign representing 375,000 students across British Columbia; 2) [Publishing a statement and press release on behalf of Graduate Student Societies of British Columbia to outline key graduate student issues this election](#), 3) Organizing BC Elections 101 event series with political science professors at UBC to provide useful and engaging information ahead of voting, 4) Organizing a debate for MLA Candidate for Point-Grey. The presentation in Council will provide further details.
- **Uniting graduate students in BC: Formation of Graduate Student Societies of British Columbia**
 - One of the VPX Office SMART Goals this year has been to unite graduate students in BC to strengthen our collective provincial advocacy efforts. I'm very proud to say that, for the first time, all four graduate student bodies from across the province have come together with a unified voice under the banner of 'Graduate Student Societies of British Columbia'. Our first joint statement was releasing earlier this week (see council documents). This is a milestone achievement. Many more joint advocacy efforts are to come. We hope to put together a memorandum of understanding outlining and formalizing the nature of our collaboration that will be brought to our respective council for signing.
- **Uniting graduate students in Canada: Meeting of U15 GSS's of Canada**
 - Currently, UBC GSS is not a member of any federal student advocacy organization. In the last month, the UBC GSS VPX Office has been reaching out to the U15 graduate student societies across



Canada to discuss a proposal to enhance our collaboration and strengthen our collective advocacy efforts by working more closely together on key federal issues. The proposal has received widespread positive feedback so far. UBC GSS will be hosting a general meeting of U15 GSS's in the second week of November as a direct result of our advocacy and negotiations.

- **Graduate Education & the Public Good Report**
 - The GSS VPX and VPAAA Office are collaborating on producing a new report that outlines the important role that graduate education plays in terms of socioeconomic contributions to our society. The foundational report will form the basis of future advocacy efforts internally and externally.
- **Revamping GSS Privacy Policy**
 - The GSS VPX Office is working on an initiative to revamp and complete the GSS Privacy Policy. Details to come soon.

5.2.5 VP Students

- Mentorship program in collaboration with the UBC Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) is now up and running! Please sign up to be a mentor here: <https://tinyurl.com/SUSMentors2020>
- National Graduate Trivia Championship – working with McGill, Western, Laurier, Brock, and McMaster to host end of November.
- Finalizing tweaks for the GPDN Career Symposium – hosting a few workshops and registration will be open soon!
- Currently exploring hosting a graduate student platform to connect and if we could incorporate it into the grad community forum and even hire an individual to help with this. More to come 😊
- October events mostly finalized, looking into subsidizing events and programming on- and off-campus and reaching out to departmental groups to recruit AOs and departmental representatives.
- Working with M+C, Nicole, and Vivian to develop a sponsorship package.
- Looking to showcase GSS Executives, Councillors, and other graduate students in a new event series to be launched end of this term – if you have a skill or something you'd be happy to share with the graduate student body, please reach out so we can make the magic happen!

5.3 COMMITTEES

5.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- (none submitted)

5.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has been working on the Councillor Code of Conduct, of which a draft will be presented and discussed in an upcoming council meeting and include an opportunity for members to submit feedback.
- CPC has been undergoing housekeeping projects which touch on areas such as Caucus Policy and Policy Manual forms. CPC continuously checks the Policy Manual for discrepancies and fixes them when discovered.

5.3.3 Elections Committee



-
- Adopted collaborating SMART goal with Services committee.
 - Prepared to transition new ESEO into their new job.
 - Reviewed previous election's flaws and compiled some recommendations for policy changes to prevent similar conflicts from occurring (i.e. preparing a complaint form where specific policy violations should be cited, establishing a rapid response team during the election cycle for handling complaints by candidates, requiring all elections material be pre-approved prior to publishing).

5.3.4 Executive Committee

- Members of the executive team have been working on project collaborations with multiple stakeholders such as:
 - UBC President's Office
 - G+PS
 - U15 graduate student associations from across Canada
 - UPass Working Group
 - UBC Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)
 - National Graduate Trivia Championship – working with McGill, Western, Laurier, Brock, and McMaster
 - Equity and Diversity
 - UBC Sustainability for a Scholars research

5.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- In the past month, EOC delivered a decision on a complaint filed against an executive. EOC is currently investigating potential workshops for executives and reviewing the executive appraisal procedure.

5.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- Discussing/finalizing the ToR for the Indigenous Engagement Ad-Hoc Committee.
- In the process of also finalizing the list of Graduate representatives - Implemented council submission form.

5.3.7 House Finance Committee

- In the past month, the HF committee has been in discussion about the financial health of the society and the need to revise the 2020-2021 budget to ensure its accuracy for the remainder of the fiscal year. Along these lines, we have been discussing rent payments with UBC and Koerner's pub, reviewing statements of actuals, and have been working towards revising the 2020-2021 budget to be more accurate for the remainder of this fiscal year. We have also been working on updating the Society Booking Policy.

5.3.8 Human Resources

- Two rounds of interviews have been done for the administration assistant position as well as electoral and engagement officer. Approval of employment for both positions is the HR responsibility. There have been discussions around the suitability of interviewed candidates. Decisions with regards to administration assistant salary and benefits have been finalized.



5.3.9 Services Committee

- (none submitted)

5.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- The primary project is the SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) analysis of each of the 4 strategic themes. We have assembled a list of topics we want to analyze and experts on those topics. We grouped those into meetings that we are now in the process of conducting. After we've conducted all of those meetings we will compile what we learned into an analysis that will guide selection of strategic goals and priorities.
- Our second project is evaluating the feasibility of using an external engagement/consulting service to obtain feedback on subsequent steps of the planning process. We've met with one sales rep and are researching other options now.
- If you have questions or would like to join us email me at sptcom@gss.ubc.ca

5.3.11 AMS Caucus

- AMS committee seats recently turned over so the caucus has been navigating the committee election process. We were able to secure seats on both the Advocacy committee (AMS version of ACEX) and the impact grant committee (evaluates student research grants).
- AMS council recently held a special meeting to discuss submissions for this year's AMS AGM. There are some really important bylaw changes on the docket and you are all AMS members so make sure you attend on Oct 29th! Here is the link if you'd like to find out more: <https://www.ams.ubc.ca/agm/>.
- As always, if you have any questions for the Caucus, email me at Schumacher@psych.ubc.ca.

5.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

- Graduate Council met on Thursday Oct2nd and discussed a proposal to raise the PhD minimum funding from 18k CAD to 22kCAD effective Sep 1st, 2021. The proposal is the result of collaborative work between the GSS and GPS. This proposal will go out for broad consultation to faculties in October, with the expectation that we will be ready for a vote before the end of the year.
- Other issues related to funding, such as extending guaranteed funding to 5 years, increase transparency in funding offers, raising the 4YF package and exploring the development of a matching system for 4YF allocation.
- Members of the Caucus have been assigned to graduate council subcommittees (Alejandra to Curriculum, Erik to academic policy and Shiva to Awards). Channels have been created in teams to facilitate subcommittee specific discussion.
- The GSS has now been granted a standing agenda item in every Grad Council meeting, to introduce updates or discussion items. This facilitates the coordination between Grad Council at large and the Caucus.

5.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.4.1 Senators:

- (none submitted)



5.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- The Board of Governors met on Sept 9th, 10th and 17th for its normal fall meeting cycle. All the materials, including the livestream, can be found on the [Board website](#). This cycle included updates on the [financial impacts of COVID](#), allocation of the [domestic tuition increase](#) by the AMS and GSS, the [impacts of COVID on tenure track faculty](#), [programs in place for online teaching](#), an update on the [inclusion action plan](#), annual SC17 reporting from [SVPRO and IIO](#), [employment equity plan](#), and a report on [faculty and staff housing preferences](#). The full Board meeting also included presentations from the GSS, AMS, and SUO.

6 NOTICES

6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, November 19th at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Maria Jose Athie Martinez was unseated as Departmental Representative for Curriculum and Pedagogy.
- Erik Frieling was unseated as Departmental Representative for Physics and Astronomy.
- Jenny Lee was unseated as Departmental Representative for Experimental Medicine.
- Jin Wen was unseated as Departmental Representative for Psychology.
- Mina Rigby-Thompson was unseated as Departmental Representative for History.
- Oluwakemi Oke was unseated as Departmental Representative for Law.
- Temitayo Olarewaju was unseated as Departmental Representative for Law.
- Pursuant to Policy 7.3.6, all standing committee members have been unseated prior to the start of this meeting.
- Pursuant to Policy 6.3.2, all members of Graduate Council have been unseated prior to the start of this meeting.
- Pursuant to Policy 6.4.3, all AMS representatives have been unseated prior to the start of this meeting.

7 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **8:58 pm**.

Mover: Perrin Waldock

Second: Jackson Schumacher

Result: Carried