



ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Abdullah Hassan, Alexa Tanner, Alireza Kamyabi, Andrew Zang, Arwa Nemir, Axel Hauduc, Charfeddine Khalifa, Daniel He, Devarsh Bhonde, Edgar Liao, Erik Frieling, Gillian Glass, Ginny Pichler, Hannah Green, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Julia Burnham, Kimani Karangu, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Mark Pampuch, Maryam Tayyab, Mohammad Reza, Karimi, Mostafa Hagar, Nevena Rebic, Nicolás Romualdi, Perrin Waldock, Sarah Park, Shiva Zargar Ershadi, Sofie McComb, Tarique Benbow, Temitayo Olarewaju, Torin McLachlan, Younus Ahmed, Yundi Wang, Kaiya Yamada, Remzi Xhemalce, Charlotte Alden (Ubysey), Nicholas Harterre (Guest, SLFS)

Regrets: Lihwen Hsu, Alison McClean

Absent: Alejandra Botia, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Delarem Shojaei, Teesha Luehr, Thomas Smith, Zhenyang Xu

Quorum: 17 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:32 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: Aaron Loewen

Seconded: Jin Wen

Result: Carried

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Jackson Schumacher

Seconded: Jin Wen

Result: Carried



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. For those who are new to the platform, welcome to GSS Council Meeting November 2020. My name is Kimani Wa Karangu, and on behalf of the GSS from UBC Vancouver, 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. Madam Speaker, I would want to add that the GSS is committed to the reconciliation, and as our commitment to it, that most of our members that are new, you see our new logo. Thanks to our previous Presidents that made it happen to adopting a new logo that we are currently proud of, made by and designed by a Musqueam artist, Susan Point. With that said, I want to welcome all of you, and let us be productive.

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 STUDENT LEGAL FUND SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Group Responsible: Nicholas Harterre, President of SLFS (Student Legal Fund Society)

Description: The SLFS is a student-funded, student-run organization at UBC that aims to provide legal and financial assistance to fund, initiate and continue advocacy, lobbying and litigation to improve education and access to education at UBC, and such other matters of law which set broad precedence and are of concern to UBC students.

Proposed Objective: Increase awareness of the SLFS and its services to the GSS Council and its constituents.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [SLFS Societies Presentation.pdf](#)

DISCUSSION

Jackson: Would your services be available to students facing a landlord/tenancy dispute?

Nicholas: We get this question quite a bit, it's very pertinent. One thing to note is that we unfortunately do not provide any legal advice at any time, because of our capacity as mostly undergrad students. We just provide the funding for legal aid. So in this case we defer these types of cases to the LSLAB, the legal clinic that we fund. If the issue is not a one-off for one individual, but an issue on tenancy that affects the whole student body, then there would be possibility to go through that case application and get it funded.

Speaker: Thank you so much Nicholas for joining us.



2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [October 15th, 2020](#)

Mover: Maria Jose Martinez **Second:** Aaron Loewen **Result:** Carried

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	October 8, 2020	Human Resources Committee:	
Code and Policy Committee:	October 7, 2020; October 21, 2020	Services Committee:	October 7, 2020
Elections Committee:		AMS Caucus:	
Executive Committee:	October 9, 2020	Graduate Council:	October 8, 2020
Executive Oversight Committee:	October 9, 2020	House Finance Committee:	
Governance & Accountability Committee:	July 23, 2020; September 24, 2020; October 1, 2020	Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:	
All Chairs:			

Jin: Move to amend, to add minutes for G&A for July 31, September 24, and October 1.

Mover: Jin Wen **Second:** Abdul Ahad Ahmadi **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION

Speaker: There's inquiry of missing minutes?

Jin: Yes, right.

Speaker: If the chair of these committees is present, please respond.

Mostafa: This is Mostafa, chair of Elections Committee. We mostly worked over email, we didn't really have a committee meeting.

Gillian: [Human Resources] Hi, I'm brand new to this position and I missed the deadline. My apologies to the society, it was a simple error on my part.

Jackson: AMS Caucus has not met. We're meeting next week.



Devarsh: [House Finance] had a meeting in October, but I recently took over this position as well, so we couldn't get it approved within the [committee], so I'll get it ready for the next meeting.

Jackson: [SPAHC] is right now holding informal meetings with various members of Council to aid our SWOT analyses, but we aren't holding official committee meetings so we haven't had a chance to approve those minutes.

Nicolas: A note on that I think the G&A minutes are supposed to be for July 23, not 31.

Speaker: Is that friendly, Jin?

Jin: Yes, that is correct, thank you.

Kimani: Thank you, madam Speaker. I want to acknowledge that the two committees that have been highlighted, HR and HF have been holding their monthly meetings and have been very critical moving very important motions that are propelling forward the society. I'm sure that in our next meeting we shall have minutes for those. I also want to acknowledge thank you Committee Chairs for all that you do, thank you so much.

Mover: Kimani Karangu

Second: Jin Wen

Result: Carried (none opposed)

3 SEATINGS

3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Edgar Liao	History
Bethany Adair	Medical Genetics
Charfeddine Khalifa	Chemical and Biological Engineering
Taryn Scarff	Zoology
Torin McLachlan	English

Mover: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi

Second: Kimani Karangu

Result: Carried (none opposed)

DISCUSSION

Nicolas: This is the moment where I make friends. Edgar, Charf and Torin were present today for Councillor Training but I don't recall Bethany or Taryn being present today or in the last training. I put that to the President whether that training occurred or whether we can proceed with the nomination.

Speaker: Kimani, is it our Bylaws that the Councillors need to attend training before they're seated?

Kimani: Yes I think that's the procedure, because we need to have smooth sailing in our meetings and be able to pass knowledge so they can abide by the rules of the book. So unless they have a special reason why they didn't attend...



Speaker: If this is in the bylaws, then you have no power to overrule the bylaws, but if it's in the policy....

Nicolas: Yes there's a bylaw about attending either the annual Councillor Retreat or the training schedule by the President ahead of every Council meeting. It is indeed in the bylaws. I apologize for raising this but as I explained in the training today, we have no choice but to follow the bylaws.

Speaker: Just going to clarify, it's in the bylaws that Councillors need to attend training before being seated. Only the membership has the right to change the bylaw, the Council body, us, has no choice but to follow it. However, that does not exclude you from sitting and listening to this meeting and also sitting on a committee that's coming up, so please stay. But what I have to do is scratch your name for this time.

3.2 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		Representative	0
Graduate Council Caucus	Saud Lingawi Yangfan Zhang	Representative	1
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	2
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

Mover: Andrew Zang

Seconder: Shiva Zargar Ershadi

Result:

DISCUSSION

Speaker: We have two people for one position in Graduate Council, so we will have an election. Saud, you will have one minute to speak, and if Yangfan appears we'll have him talk about why we should elect him for another minute and then we'll have a round of questions.

Saud: Thank you madam Speaker and Council members for giving me the change to introduce myself. I'm Saud and I'm a first-year graduate studies, also completed my undergraduate at UBC. For the past four years, I've been heavily involved in mental wellness specifically related to mental health on campus through organizations like the Mental Health Network and Campus Lightbox. I've done on-campus workshops and symposiums to destigmatize mental illnesses and talk about resources available to students. I've also created a website that combines all mental health resources onto a single platform, which didn't exist previously. The GSS is already a collaborative member with Campus Lightbox organization through a previous meeting that I conducted with the previous President of the GSS. As part of Grad Council, I'd love to finally take these mental health related issues from a student level to more of a policy level and be able to make some real change on campus.



Speaker: Any questions?

Nicolas: I'd like to throw in my endorsement for Saud's nomination. As he pointed out, we started collaborating last year when he was the representative for the Mental Health Network and I was the President. Currently, as you are all aware, I serve the function of chair of the Graduate Council Caucus, and I'm eager to bring his expertise into the caucus so we can increase our focus on mental health and wellbeing in the advocacy that we do to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, so I'm very excited to have Saud join us and bring his expertise to the table.

Kimani: I also want to echo and endorse Saud. As it had been mentioned I have been training and tracing whatever happened last year, and I'm keen to having the same continue this year. And as Saud said, it was an initiative that wasn't done before. I can't wait to see him with other members push such agendas across the campus, so I think I'm endorsing that situation, Saud for the position.

VOTES

Graduate Council Caucus Election: FOR SAUD (25), FOR YANGFAN (1)

RESULT: Saud Lingawi wins for representative to Graduate Council Caucus

FOR (25): Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, charf khalifa (Guest), Kimani Karangu, Hannah Green (Linguistics) (Guest), Alexa Tanner (Guest), Alireza Kamyabi, Nicolas Romualdi, Shiva Zargar (Guest), Axel Hauduc (Guest), Perrin Waldock (Physics and Astronomy), Jackson Schumacher (Guest), Nevena Rebic (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), mrkarimi88 (Guest), Torin McLachlan (Guest), ginny.pichler (Guest), Yundi Wang (Guest), Abdullah Hassan (Guest), Sarah Park, GSSElections, Daniel He (Experimental Medicine) (Guest), Jenny Lee, Andrew Zang (Guest), Gillian Glass (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies) (Guest), Mark Pampuch (Botany) (Guest), CPCCCommittee

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:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External		Councillor	0
	Kaiya Yamada	Ordinary Member	1
Code & Policy		Councillor	2
	Beverly Yang	Ordinary Member	3
Elections		Councillor	0



		Ordinary Member	4
Executive Oversight		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	3
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	3
House Finance		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	2
Human Resources	Torin McLachlan	Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	3
Services		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	2
Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	3

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

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Hearing from last meeting, we'll go back to the tradition of having chairs introduce their committees.

Julia: The Academic and External Committee Affairs Committee meets on a monthly basis. Right now we're working on finishing some projects related to Proctorio, thinking about Student Experience Surveys, but mostly we're here to set the direction for advocacy within the university and to government both provincially and federally and help our VP's do that, so I would love to have people join us.

Aaron: To talk about Code and Policy, as the name states we work with the bylaws and policies of the GSS to revise and clarify them as needed. We meet every other week and we work with virtually every committee at some point and executives to make small changes or big changes alike. You get to learn inner workings of GSS and we get to work on short-term and long-term projects simultaneously. Would love to have you.

Mostafa: [Elections] works on two main things, one is facilitating the elections, figuring out the rules mostly. Last year we had a pretty rocky elections so we're trying to learn from that and adjust accordingly. Other thing we work on is trying to improve engagement with wider student base. So the Elections Committee is cool because you get to do a bunch of policy stuff but you also get to collaborate with Services. You get to see a little bit of both.

Tayo: [Executive Oversight] basically oversee executives, investigate what ways we can support them in whatever way we can. We also review their goals which we'll be doing this session. We also resolve complaints so there's a couple ways to get to know our executives and understand the makeup of the GSS.



Jin: Governance and Accountability deals with examining our protocols and bylaws and ways of improving governance. Also in charge of making sure all committees are on track to fulfilling their SMART Goals as laid out in the Strategic Plan.

Devarsh: House Finance basically overlooks the financial wellbeing and performance of the society. The tasks that we do are preparing the budget for GSS and monitoring the performance for each of the executives. We usually meet twice every month, and we'd love to have you on the committee.

Gillian: Hi this is Gillian, chair of Human Resources. We are the committee responsible for hiring and labour practices within the GSS. We meet to look over job applications and various requests from the staff members we work with, whoever has hiring they want to be doing, or they have questions about working with staff. We also work with staff if they have questions, concerns, ideas for improvements for the organization. These days we're meeting every three weeks but come January we're going to meet twice a month and we would love to have anyone that wants to come work with us. Happy staff make for a happy society.

Andrew: Services, we look at the planning and decision-making for events and community-building around UBC. If you're interested in that, building community, getting people involved and excited, this is the committee for you. We do a lot of collaborative work as well, with VP Students, Events and Communications team. Recently we've been doing a lot with Elections as well. If you want exposure to more groups, this is a good place to be. We're currently going through some work changes, we had to make some changes to our SMART Goals, trying to tackle the new direction for the committee. Currently working on looking into engagement with the GSS. If you have any strong ideas or feelings for this, come check us out.

Jackson: Strat Plan Committee, or SPAHC, is working to develop the next 5-year strategic plan for the society. This is extremely important because it's going to shape what the GSS focuses on for the next five years. Now is a particularly exciting time to join because we're working on our SWOT analyses. Basically, we'll get together with various experts from Council and talk about equity, advocacy or governance. It's a great way to learn a lot about the society and also shape where we go. Also, if you join I will write you a song on the kalimba for our next committee meeting [plays the kalimba]. Thank you.

Nicolas: I would like to very lightheartedly object to the tactics of the chair of the Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee.

Torin: I'm a new councillor, I was just seated a few minutes ago and I'd like to nominate myself for the Human Resources Committee.

VOTES

FOR (23): Jackson Schumacher (Guest), charf khalifa (Guest), Gillian Glass (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies) (Guest), Axel Hauduc (Guest), Younus Ahmed (Anthropology) (Guest), Perrin Waldock (Physics and Astronomy), Maria Jose Martinez (Guest), Alexa Tanner (Guest), ginny.pichler (Guest), Daniel He (Experimental Medicine) (Guest), Arwa Nemir (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), Jenny Lee, Nevena Rebic (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), Shiva Zargar (Guest), Maryam Tayyab, mrkarimi88 (Guest), Alireza Kamyabi, Abdullah Hassan (Guest), Hannah Green (Linguistics) (Guest), Andrew Zang (Guest), GSSElections, CPCCommittee, Yundi Wang (Guest)



4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 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 November 2021:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Medical Genetics Graduate Students' Association (MGSA)	Cheryl Bishop

Mover: VP Students **Second:** Alireza Kamyabi **Result:** Carried

4.2 BYLAW 7.3 REVISION

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: This change is to update the reference existing in the Bylaws. Currently, Bylaw 7.3.1.a refers to Bylaw 2.1 for a definition of "departments"; however, this definition does not exist in 2.1 (Procedure and effect) but rather in 1.3 (Departmental representation).

Proposed Objective: To submit an item for AGM 2021.

Time: 5 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Bylaw Revision Form – Bylaw 7.3.pdf](#)

WHEREAS Bylaw 7.3.1.a incorrectly refers to Bylaw 2.1 (Procedure and effect), when it should refer to Bylaw 1.3 (Departmental representation)

BIRT the following be included as a motion in the 2021 AGM or in the next referendum, whichever comes first:

WHEREAS Bylaw 7.3.1.a incorrectly refers to Bylaw 2.1 (Procedure and effect) for the definition of "departments," which does not contain the definition for "departments"

WHEREAS the definition of "departments" is found in Bylaw 1.3 (Departmental representation)

BIRT Bylaw 7.3.1.a be amended to read "All departments (as defined in 1.3), regardless of size, are entitled to appoint one council member. That council member must be appointed in an open and democratic election; and"

Mover: Aaron Loewen **Second:** Maria Jose Martinez **Result:** Carried



DISCUSSION

Speaker: I'm not going to read all of it but the gist of it is that the definition of department is under Bylaw 1.3 but then "Procedure and effect" of the definition of department is being incorrectly referred to there. I'll give it back to Aaron, you're supposed to be clarifying not me, sorry.

Aaron: No worries. This is just a small change, currently at the moment as Madam Speaker said it refers to the wrong area of the Bylaws. We just want to make a small change so the reference points to the correct area. We would appreciate this being put to our next AGM so we can make it official at that point.

Speaker: Anyone else want to speak to it?

Nicolas: Thank you Madam Speaker. Aaron, don't hate me for this. I move to amend to make this "for next AGM and/or referendum". I think I need to be seconded before I motivate.

Speaker: I also noticed this 'm' that should be an 'n'.

Nicolas: Up to the President but I think that's friendly.

Speaker: Seconded by Jackson, Nicolas go ahead.

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi **Seconded:** Jackson Schumaker **Result:** Carried

Nicolas: Quick motivation, I'm sorry I didn't catch this before. Because we couldn't attain quorum at our last attempted AGM, there's a possibility that we run a referendum as early as possible to try and pass the bylaw amendments that we have still pending from the last AGM. So I just want to make this amendment so whichever comes first, either the next AGM or the next referendum, we can just put this in the referendum and we don't need to run another motion for this.

Aaron: Sounds good.

Speaker: Any opposed? Seeing none, I'll consider that carried, back to the main motion.

Speaker: Any further debate? Hearing none, let's vote.

VOTES

FOR (23): Nicolas Romualdi, Nevena Rebic (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), mrkarimi88 (Guest), Jackson Schumacher (Guest), Axel Hauduc (Guest), Mark Pampuch (Botany) (Guest), Torin McLachlan (Guest), Maria Jose Martinez (Guest), charf khalifa (Guest), Jenny Lee, saudling@student.ubc.ca (Guest), Perrin Waldock (Physics and Astronomy), ginny.pichler (Guest), Alireza Kamyabi, G&ACommittee, Yundi Wang (Guest), Abdullah Hassan (Guest), Andrew Zang (Guest), Shiva Zargar (Guest), Daniel He (Experimental Medicine) (Guest), Gillian Glass (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies) (Guest), GSSElections, Arwa Nemir (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest)

ABSTAIN (1): Aaron Loewen



4.3 APPENDIX VI REVISION

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: The current Council Agenda form (Appendix VI) states that as per the Bylaws, all councillors are required to sit on at least one committee. However, recent changes to the Policy Manual state that all councillors shall endeavor to sit on at least one committee and the Bylaws do not comment on whether councillors must sit on committees. This change is to update the Agenda form to reflect current policies.

Proposed Objective: To approve the submitted policy revision.

Time: 5 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Policy Revision Form – Appendix VI.pdf](#)

WHEREAS the current Council Agenda (Appendix VI) states that the Bylaws require councillors to sit on at least one committee

WHEREAS the current Bylaws do not comment on whether councillors must sit on a committee

WHEREAS Policy 6.2.2 states that “Each departmental representative seated as Councillor shall endeavor to join at least one Committee of Council and participate in its activities.”

BIRT section 3.2 in Appendix VI (Committee Seatings) be amended to read “All GSS Councillors shall endeavour to sit on at least one committee as per Policy 6.2.2.”

Mover: Aaron Loewen

Seconders: Nicolas Romualdi

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Aaron: This appendix refers to the Council Agenda form. Currently it has a line that states that all Councillors are required to sit on a committee as per the Bylaws. This is just a correction as the bylaws do not state that. It doesn't say in the bylaws, nor does it say that everyone is required to sit on a committee, but we shall endeavour to. This is just a change regarding that.

VOTES

FOR (20): Nicolas Romualdi, Shiva Zargar (Guest), Yundi Wang (Guest), Daniel He (Experimental Medicine) (Guest), ginny.pichler (Guest), Gillian Glass (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies) (Guest), Nevena Rebic (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), charf khalifa (Guest), Maria Jose Martinez (Guest), mrkarimi88 (Guest), Andrew Zang (Guest), Mark Pampuch (Botany) (Guest), Kimani Karangu, Younus Ahmed (Anthropology) (Guest), Jenny Lee, GSSElections, Abdullah Hassan (Guest), Arwa Nemir (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), G&ACommittee, Hannah Green (Linguistics) (Guest)

ABSTAIN (3): Perrin Waldock (Physics and Astronomy), Axel Hauduc (Guest), CPCCommittee



4.4 APPENDIX VII REVISIONS

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: The current forms listed in Appendix VII are outdated and require updating. VP Students, HF, G&A, Services, Events Manager, and CPC have collaborated on revamping the forms in Appendix VII related to Affiliate Organization Application, Event Fund Form, Event Fund Budget Sheet, and Post Event Follow-Up Form. These forms update the language used on the form as well as what information is requested.

Proposed Objective: To approve the submitted policy revisions.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Policy Revision Form – Appendix VII COMPLETE.pdf](#)

WHEREAS the current forms found under Appendix VII are outdated and require updating to keep with current GSS practices

BIRT the current Appendix VII is replaced with the proposed Appendix VII.

Mover: Kimani Karangu

Seconders: Jackson Schumaker

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Aaron: This is the biggest of the revisions. The current forms listed in Appendix VII, these are related to the Affiliate Organization application, the Event Fund forms and the post-event follow-up. Basically, VP Students took a look at this alongside others and determined these were outdated and needed updated. Through a collaborative effort we have come to the final form of these forms. We would like to replace everything that is currently in Appendix VII with these forms. They cover a very similar material albeit with some changes where we see the updates, and I think of those updates anyone who was working on them could give you more information.

VOTES

FOR (19): Nicolas Romualdi, Torin McLachlan (Guest), Kimani Karangu, ginny.pichler (Guest), charf khalifa (Guest), Jenny Lee, Alireza Kamyabi, Nevena Rebic (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), Jackson Schumacher (Guest), Yundi Wang (Guest), Maria Jose Martinez (Guest), mrkarimi88 (Guest), Shiva Zargar (Guest), Abdullah Hassan (Guest), Daniel He (Experimental Medicine) (Guest), Andrew Zang (Guest), Mark Pampuch (Botany) (Guest), Arwa Nemir (Pharmaceutical Sciences) (Guest), Hannah Green (Linguistics) (Guest)

ABSTAIN (4): Gillian Glass (Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies) (Guest), Perrin Waldock (Physics and Astronomy), Sarah Park, CPCCCommittee



5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 GSS CODE OF CONDUCT

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: As per CPC's SMART goals this year, we have been tasked with the creation of a Code of Conduct. We have created a draft that has received some feedback; however, we would like to receive feedback from all councillors and committee members.

Proposed Objective: To present the first complete draft of the GSS Code of Conduct and announce the feedback survey.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [GSS Code of Conduct - Draft 2020-11-09.pdf](#); GSS Code of Conduct Survey Link; [GSS Code of Conduct Presentation.pptx](#)

DISCUSSION

Nicolas: I feel like this meeting is going so well and everyone is so on point, that I have the opportunity to go slightly out of the rules and just congratulate CPC for taking this on. This has been long overdue and I'm very happy to see that this is being seriously considered and moving forward. So thank you Aaron and everyone on CPC.

5.2 REPORT ON MID-TERM EXECUTIVES GOALS

Group responsible: Executive Oversight Committee

Presentation time: 20 minutes

Presentation description: Report on 2020-21 Mid-term Executives Goals

Proposed objective: Update on 2020-21 Mid-term Executives Goals

Relevant materials (i.e. links or filenames): [2020-21 Mid-Term Executives Goals Review.pptx](#)

5.3 COUNCILLOR TRAINING UPDATE

Group responsible: President

Presentation time: 15 minutes

Presentation description: Update on developing New Councillor Training

Proposed objective: Update on progress

Relevant materials (i.e. links or filenames): [New Councillor Training slides Nov 2020](#)



DISCUSSION

Kimani: Point of privilege, I would like people to put on their cameras.

Speaker: I don't think that's a privilege, but okay.

Nicolas: In this unique situation I would like to strongly oppose the privilege raised by the President. He doesn't have the right to exercise his privilege on the rest of the assembly.

Kimani: Madam Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Speaker: Are you raising any motion?

Kimani: If it's a privilege that someone can switch off their microphone, it's a privilege to put their video on. Anyways, I want to yield and say I'm defeated.

Speaker: Anyone else want to speak on Councillor Training? Hearing none.

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Winter Subsidy Program
- Thrive Cooking collaboration with LFS
- Thrive collaboration event with UBC Wellness

6.2 EXECUTIVES

President

- **Search for the next GSS's AA:** Involved in the entire process: screening, interviewing, and negotiating. Finally, GSS has hired AA (Victoria Gomez). The process took longer than expected however introduction /initial plan-meetings between the AA and President have taken place.
- **A student Rep leader (member) of the search committee: Lead "Chief" Student Health Officer position at UBC (there other two more search engagements):** The Lead "Chief" Student Health Officer is responsible for the strategic leadership of student health and wellbeing services and programming at the UBC Vancouver campus in alignment with institutional goals, purposes and priorities. As a member of the Vice President Students' (VPS) Senior Leadership Team, the Chief Student Health Officer contributes to the development and execution of VPS portfolio-wide strategic priorities.
- **Organizational Coaching Project (OCP):** GSS has been identified as a "fit" team with the upcoming Organizational Coaching Project (OCP) that the Certificate in Organizational Coaching learners will be



engaging in this winter/spring. Both the GSS and the OCP are excited to partner especially for the potential to create a win-win-win for everyone involved through this organizational coaching experience! Our GM is involved with the OCP as a "student"

- **Budget 101 Presentation with the Student Executives:** Participated in the budget presentation and consultation and further follow up done regarding the endowment funds research grants.
- **Integration of Student Health and Wellness Services:** Keeling & Associates, LLC (K&A) is working with UBC to provide guidance, support, and facilitation for the administrative, organizational, and programmatic integration of its student health and wellness-related programs and services. UBC offers a wide variety of resources and services to advance students' health and wellbeing, including —but not limited to—health assessments and treatments in the Student Health Service, individual and group therapy in Counselling Services, and health promotion strategies and programs via Health Promotion and Education. The planned co-location of UBC's health and wellness services in a new facility by 2025 will be an extraordinary opportunity to advance student wellness and success in ways that make the highest and best use of existing resources and more effectively meet the needs of students going forward. UBC can take many key steps toward integration before the services are colocated. The integration of health-related programs and services is a process of cultural and organizational change that requires inter-cultural dialogue and trust building among leaders and staff, as well as detailed administrative and operational planning. The intersecting and cross-reinforcing steps in organizational, administrative, operational and cultural change among health-related services at UBC should begin as soon as possible.
- **EDI Audit Consultation:** Following some key EDI observation (gaps), the GSS has reached out to a neutral 3rd party EDI consulting firm to help in the EDI audit. Initial meeting has taken place and further consultation will happen to inform the society on the best and sustainable way forward. Sarah (VPS) and Vivian (GM) will take a front lead within the Office of the President
- **Conversation with the Chancellor (Dr. Point):** Dr. Point will be installed as the next UBC chancellor on Nov 25th, 2020. A conversation took place and highlighted a few suggestions that will improve the relationship between the GSS, UBC and more so the First Nation People. Dr. Point has been made aware of the GSS top priorities for the current year. He acknowledges the fact and will continue to champion for the GSS in the areas pointed out to him. He is very keen to see to it that the GSS is empowered to advocate for all students including the First Nation students and other marginalized groups.
- **Graduate Student Societies of U15 - General Meeting:** Attended and participated in a very well-organized meeting involving different Canadian University student leaders (VP Exs and Presidents). This faction is proudly chaired by one Alireza the GSS VP Ex.

FEEO

- Coordinated the activities of the Executive Oversight Committee in reviewing 2020-21 GSS Executives Goals.
- Coordinated account receivables and payables of the GSS.

VP University & Academic Affairs

- **Graduate Certificate Programs:**



-
- The VP UAA staff and the communications director have done an environmental scan across the University to determine the landscape of certificate programs. It was determined that the context is much more complex than initially assessed.
 - The VP UAA and the Policy analyst are now working with the AMS Governance team and enrollment services to determine if there are already affiliations from students in these certificate programs to any AMS constituency. Further, we will collaboratively determine which of these programs are best served by becoming members of the graduate constituency. The likely outcome is that a first step would be to incorporate certificates who are predominantly post baccalaureate. Once this agreement is reached, the AMS will consult with the relevant student groups with a targeted special referendum. This would then allow the GSS to accept these students pursuant to current bylaw membership criteria.
 - **Graduate Certificate Programs:**
 - While the final assessments are being finished for Executive 1+2, the VP UAA is coordinating with GPS to work with Development and Alumni Engagement to assess the feasibility of an external fundraising campaign.
 - **Remove Invigilation:**
 - The VP UAA office is now engaged with a working group composed of CTLT, Provost Office and IT representatives to determine potential alternatives to Proctorio, should the University decide to move away from this tool and explore other options. A summary of principles has been prepared, based on the conversations had in the working group, the recommendations raised by the members of the Academic & External Committee and expert consultation. These are being circulated at this time and will form a basis of a GSS submission to the Teaching & Learning Committee once that stage of the decision process is reached. Main areas of focus are: accessibility, EDI, effectiveness in preserving academic integrity, student privacy. Details will be presented in the next Academic & External committee meeting.
 - **Course Scheduling:**
 - The VP UAA sits on the Learning Spaces Advisory Committee (LSAC) which, among other things, develops proposals for changes in course scheduling. A more holistic scheduling system is being explored, which has the advantage of combining a student and department-centric approach. It is also being discussed what considerations, if any, are to be included thinking ahead of hybrid education models. In general, these proposed changes seem to have the potential to improve access to learning spaces, increase utilization and have an overall positive impact. If any potential issues are identified throughout this process, they will be brought to the Academic & External Committee for discussion.
 - **Community Food Insecurity Measurement Framework:**
 - A scholar has been selected to work on developing an evidence-based framework to measure community food security in the Vancouver campus context. The project has been largely scoped out and literature review is currently underway. The project is co-supervised by a UBC Wellbeing coordinator, a SEEDS project manager and the VP UAA.
 - Cooperation with the AMS continues as they expand the food bank operation to supply hampers and other initiatives for immediate alleviation.
 - **Development of an Advocacy Platform for Students with Disabilities:**
 - A SEEDS research proposal has been developed by one of our advocacy coordinators and brought to a SEEDS project coordinator to co-develop a researched based advocacy platform for graduate



students with disabilities based on the existing research carried out on the issues that these students experience in graduate school. The draft proposal was well received and it is expected to be approved and rolled out in the January term. The development of the advocacy platform will be finished before Apr 30th, 2021, leaving a structured list of advocacy avenues for a future VP UAA.

- **PhD Minimum Funding Increase:**

- Broad consultation to departments and faculties has taken place on the plan to increase PhD minimum funding. While pockets of issues were raised, at this point the vote has been scheduled for Dec 3rd and is likely going to pass. Conversations about next steps to further strengthen research graduate student financial support are already taking place, indicating that the general expectation is indeed a positive movement in this direction. The aim is to leave a multi-year plan in place to minimize the risk that the momentum is lost in future years.

- **Exam Scheduling Conflicts:**

- A letter has been prepared from the OAC to be sent to the Associate Deans Academic outlining systematic issues that have been identified with exam scheduling and how it is negatively impacting international students. The letter is currently circulating among members of the committee for approval and is expected to go to ADA in the near future.

VP External

- **2020 BC Provincial Election & Voter Mobilization Campaign:** The 2020 BC Provincial Election has now ended with results from all riding finalized except one (West Vancouver – Sea-to-Sky). The results are a majority NDP Government with 57 seats, BC Liberals with 28 seats and The BC Green Party with 2 seats in the legislature. UBC GSS voter mobilization campaign consisted of hosting a GSS/AMS an all-candidates debate for Point-Grey Candidates, organizing two 'BC Election 101' event series, creating a portfolio of engaging digital campaigning material including posters, video infographics and banners, collaborating with all BC Post-Secondary Student Association on the '#GetOutTheVote Campaign).
- **Uniting Graduate Student Societies of BC:** Drafting MoU and website: 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 am 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'. Following multiple successful advocacy actions, the group is now building a website and drafting a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines and formalizes the closer collaboration between the organizations. The MoU will be presented to Council for ratification.
- **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. On November 10, following months of talks, the UBC-GSS hosted and chair the first meeting of the U15 GSS's – composed of the graduate student societies of the top 15 research-intensive universities in Canada. The group signalled its willingness to work more closely together on advocating the federal government on issues that matter to all graduate students. The group is now working on a joint letter to the federal government and drafting an MoU for to frame closer collaboration and coordinate advocacy going forward.
- **Graduate Education & the Public Good Report:** Hiring for the 'Policy Project Coordinator', which would oversee the report, is underway with interview being conducted in the coming week. The project will build a portfolio of advocacy materials that outlines the myriad ways graduate education contributes to the socioeconomic and cultural development of Canadian society. The foundational report will clearly outline



why government and policymakers should make support for graduate education as a pillar of economic recovery and will form the foundation of GSS advocacy for years to come.

- **Revamping GSS Privacy Policy:** Hiring for the 'Privacy Policy Assistant' position is underway. The President and VP External Office will work on revamping the GSS Privacy Policy so that it is in line with BC PIPA and provincial privacy legislature. Interviews for the position will be conducted in the coming week.
- **Core Funding Advocacy Campaign:** UBC-GSS VPX Office is initiating a core funding advocacy campaign to encourage the provincial government to increase funding for post-secondary institutions across the province in order to slow and reverse the trend of universities increasing reliance on tuition and donation. The campaign is in collaboration with AMS and ABCS. More details to come.
- **Introduction and advocacy to new provincial government – building relations:** UBC-GSS is leading the efforts on behalf of Graduate Student Societies of BC (GSSBC) in joining ABCS in its 2021 BC Budget Advocacy Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to draw attention and gain MLA support for 2021 Budget Recommendations relevant to post-secondary education and students. The campaign would consist of multiple components, including a mail campaign with all newly elected and returning MLA's receiving a introductory package outlining post-secondary education asks touching on six different topics (sexualized violence, affordability, mental health, graduate education, housing and international students).

VP Students

- Helped select student speakers for virtual Fall graduation with Carol Naylor and the rest of the team from the UBC VP Students portfolio
- Working with Services Committee to create an Among Us highlight reel featuring GSS executive team
- Submitted updated AO Application and Event Fund forms to CPC for approval
- Sent a template AO Newsletter around to Services Committee for approval and feedback – will be sending it around to the executive team afterwards
- Sitting on the TLEF Adjudication Committee – adjudicating applications in December
- Hosted a Managing Debt & Making Credit Work For You in collaboration with CPA,
- Training the Electoral and Student Engagement Officer with Nicole, Mostafa, Ben
- Debriefed Orientation 2020, planning January Orientation 2021 with Nicole and the G+PS Gradstart Team
- Putting together midterm feedback surveys for GSS virtual classes to tweak and improve program offerings for next term
- Sitting on the EDI Dimensions Advisory bi-monthly meetings
- Attended a meeting with Cicely Blain Consulting for an EDI audit with Vivian & Kimani – more updates to follow!
- Collaborated on Rainbow Speed Friending with VP Academic with great success 🌈👯
- Sportchek sponsorship came out – heard great anecdotal stories!
- Launched Winter Subsidy Program – go out to Vandusen or Capilano (more to be added as they are confirmed) with your immediate family/household members or what the current guidelines announced by the BC Gov't are to enjoy a little bit of fresh air!
- Facilitated and moderated a workshop at the GPDN Canadian Career Symposium 2020
- Collaborating with 11 other Canadian Graduate Student Associations to offer the 1st ever National Trivia Championships (did I mention PRIZES!?) on Nov 25th at 5pm PST 🏆 Sign up by Nov 18th!
- Working with UBC Wellbeing and Health Promotions team to feature The Great Disconnect documentary screening (virtually) with peer-led roundtable discussions with Graduate Student Wellbeing Ambassadors!



6.3 COMMITTEES

Academic & External Committee

- Approved more accessible language and operations for the GSFA Eligibility requirements
- Discussed GSS position on the use of Proctorio, and have deferred the final drafting to GSS staff
- Begun conversations about the AMS AES and GSS SES collaboration possibilities to better collect graduate student experience data

Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has been completing the draft of the Code of Conduct which will be unveiled at the November Council Meeting
- CPC has started the process of codifying rescheduling Council Meetings/AGM in extreme circumstances
- CPC has been working with VP Students on a revision of Appendix VII
- CPC has been completing its review of the online forms as per their Terms of Reference

Elections Committee

- Drafted policy revisions regarding election complaints & acceptable campaigning behaviour

Executive Committee

- We are preparing to provide feedback to the strategic committee, EOC in mid term goals review and deep advocacy on students' needs, particularly, financial needs, mental health and accessibility.

Executive Oversight Committee

- The Executive Oversight Committee recently completed the 2020-21 Executives Midterm Reviews.

Governance & Accountability Committee

- G&A is currently working on the following:
 - Finalizing the ToR for the Indigenous Engagement Ad Hoc committee.
 - Finalizing the Graduate Department Representative List
 - Discussing Conflict Issue procedures
 - Currently working on end of year SMART Goal report

House Finance Committee

- **2020-2021 Budget Revision** - HF Committee is currently working on revising the budget for 2020-21 in order to align the impact of Covid-19 on the revenues and expenses. The updated budget will help to improve the financial transparency of the society by getting a clearer picture of budget vs actuals. Each of the student executives was requested to revisit their budget by taking into account the expenses and revenues over the last 6 months and submitted an updated budget to HF Committee. The HF Committee is currently reviewing the budgets from every department and will submit a new budget for Council approval



in December. This new budget will also help in the future years of the society, should the impact of Covid-19 does not subside.

- **Salary Increases for GSS staff:** The HF Committee is exploring if the revised budget could be utilized for the long-pending salary increases of the GSS staff members. The date of effect and amount of increase is currently being discussed. The final decision will be presented for Council approval in the next Council meeting.

Human Resources

Services Committee

- Finished working on updated smart goals, began implementation.

Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- Hi All! The most salient update from this past month is about COVID safety and AMS events. Recently, the AMS has come under fire for sponsoring events that violated COVID-19 distancing and mask guidelines. See the links below for more details. As a result, AMS council created an ad-hoc committee to restructure the AMS events department to prevent issues like these in the future. 2 GSS reps (Jackson and Nevina) were seated on that committee and will be working to enhance accountability in the AMS events department.
- Please email me (Jackson) at schumacher@psych.ubc.ca if you have any questions or input that you'd like voiced in that committee (or elsewhere in AMS council).
- <https://www.ubyssey.ca/news/pub-crawl-ams-second-wave/> <https://www.ubyssey.ca/news/between-the-motions-november-12/?ref=frontpage>

AMS Caucus

Graduate Council Caucus

- After the discussions in the October meeting to increase the minimum funding for PhD students, which followed the GSS/AMS Presentation to the Board asking to end Graduate Student Poverty, GPS has organized broader consultation with programs and departments to identify and analyze potential negative impacts from this change. While concerns were raised by a small pocket of programs, they have been debated between the VP UAA and the Faculty Leadership, and agreement in moving forward continues. The vote to increase minimum funding is scheduled for December 3rd.
- Note that as a result of the time consuming nature and importance of this business, Graduate Council did not meet in November to focus efforts on the consultation process.
- The next Caucus meeting has been scheduled 1 week ahead of the vote to be prepared

6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Senators:

- (none submitted)



Board of Governors Representatives:

- The November Board cycle is upon us soon – materials will be [posted online](#) before the meeting. Committees are meeting on Nov 20th and Nov 24th, and full Board is on Dec 3rd. Of note, the normal tuition increase is not being discussed this cycle and will be delayed until the spring. As always, you can contact us at jeanie.malone@ubc.ca and max.holmes@ubc.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, December 10th at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Rio Piccolo was unseated as Departmental Representative from School of Library, Archives and Information Studies.
- Yi Yang was unseated as Departmental Representative from Pathology.

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **7:22 pm**.

Mover: Andrew Zang

Secunder: Shiva Zargar Ershadi

Result: Carried