



ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Abdullah Hassan, Alejandra Botia, Alireza Kamyabi, Alison McClean, Andrew Zang, Arwa Nemir, Axel Hauduc, Bethany Adair, Daniel He, Edgar Liao, 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, Nicolas Romualdi, Perrin Waldock, Sarah Park, Saud Lingawi, Shiva Zargar, Taryn Scarff, Teesha Luehr, Temitayo Olarewaju, Torin McLachlan, William Canero, Younus Ahmed, Angela Mo, Bahareh Jokar (StudentCare), Charlie Tajnay (StudentCare), Charlotte Alden (Ubyssy), Devarsh Bhonde, Erik Allas (Auditor), Lihwen Hsu, Remzi Xhemalce, Sandeep Gill, Susan Porter (Dean, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies)

Regrets:

Absent: Alexa Tanner, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Charfeddine Khalifa, Delarem Shojaei, Erik Frieling, Tarique Benbow, Thomas Smith, Yundi Wang, Zhenyang Xu

Quorum: 18 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:31 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: Nicolas Romualdi

Seconded: Shiva Zargar Ershadi

Result: Carried

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi

Seconded: Maryam Tayyab

Result: Carried



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. For those who are new to the platform, welcome to GSS Council Meeting December 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.

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):

Nicolas: Motion to move to switch Expedient Matters 1.1 and 1.2 because auditor is not here yet.

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi

Seconded: Tayo Olarewaju

Result: Carried

1.1 GSS + G+PS: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE

Group Responsible: VP UAA + Dean Susan Porter

Description: Joint update on developments on graduate student funding and the status of the Graduate Life Centre project.

Objective: Inform Council on news from G+PS and the GLC.

DISCUSSION

Nicolas: Wasn't sure if we were planning to announce the 26k today, should be aware that Council may now hold you to that, so just to be clear that's not for next year, that's for later. As far as the GLC, Council has heard this from me for over a year and a half now. To remind everyone that this is a joint effort, it's also the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the VP Students. On the particular note on the funding, the funding secured so far is part of an operational surplus that the university had in the previous fiscal year before COVID hit. As Dr. Porter mentioned, we are committed to funding this without any additional costs to graduate students, by achieving additional donor support and existing operational structures within the university to fund capital projects. So in short we are doing our



best effort to not have to levy any fees to carry out this project. If you look at the history, when the building was donated to us in 1960, the number and the composition of the graduate student population in Vancouver was very different than it is today, it was much smaller and less diverse community, the needs were very different, and over time the inadequacies accumulated. We're planning to best serve the graduate students. This is a project we're well-intentioned in taking on and echo what Dr. Porter said about joint efforts. What we've achieved we've been able to achieve because we've been working together and we've aligned our goals, I'm very happy with what we've been able to achieve both with the GLC and the increase in minimum funding for PhD students.

Speaker: Thank you Susan, I remember our conversations about minimum stipends almost 10 years ago. We don't have better advocate than you for graduate students so thank you so much.

Susan: Thank you very much, and can I just say it's been a great pleasure working with the GSS the last few years. So often we have been on the same page and seeking the same things, so it's really been a pleasure.

Speaker: If Erik's not here, I'll take the liberty to move onto the next agenda item.

1.2 STUDENTCARE UPDATE: HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN CLAIMS

Group Responsible: StudentCare

Description: Presentation by StudentCare representative on the claims to the Health & Dental Plan.

Purpose: Inform Council on issues related to the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan.

Time: 10 mins + 5 mins Q&A

1.3 JOINT AMS/GSS LEGAL SERVICE FOR STUDENTS

Group Responsible: VPUAA + StudentCare

Description: There may be a need to increase access to legal services for students. StudentCare approached the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee with a proposal for a service for this purpose. StudentCare will present on the service. The VPUAA and the President would like to know if Council consents to the AMS/GSS Health & Dental exploring a joint legal service for students. No actions will be taken without further input, at this time we are only seeking approval to explore the service.

Objective: Allow the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee to explore providing a legal service to students.

DISCUSSION

Gillian: Thank you for this presentation, I do think personally that having legal recourse is really valuable, I think it is an underused right of many people. Only question is as you can opt out of this program and as you mentioned in your presentation legal counsel can be horrifically expensive. So on the one hand I very much appreciate that there are no limits on the support people can get and that's really valuable. How are the finances of this sort of support going to work, because it's difficult to offer an all-inclusive support while being limited by the funds of the resource.



Bahareh: One key principle about this service and why it's been successful in the other provinces where it's been implemented is that it's a pooled service. I'll use one of the services on the extended Health and Dental Plan, it's like a travel service, where the pool offsets the experience of what could be a tremendous health claim, we're talking \$1-2 million for someone who has an accident abroad. So for this service the cost of the program would be \$29.50 per student per year, if it were to go to referendum and pass. We've priced it at that point to facilitate it and allow students to remove themselves if they don't fundamentally agree or want to have access to this service. Only caveat is if you want to remove yourself, you have to do it in a dedicated time period at the start of the semester, you can't just choose to opt out at any point in time, similar to the Extended Health & Dental Plan. But generally speaking, the experience would be pooled comparatively across the board with our other partners nationally who are also using the service.

Charlie: I'd just like to add that at the moment there's between 150,000-200,000 students in this program, everybody pays a flat fee, tax dependent on the province. Also some of the legal systems are different amongst provinces so there's some variability there, but everyone pays a flat fee and has access to the same level of service and the same service altogether. So it is as Bahareh mentioned shared across this larger pool of students and is kind of a solidarity network that is created to ensure that when something happens, there's no worries, especially financial, for that student.

Mostafa: I agree with Gillian that this is a fantastic service and much needed. I'm wondering, what would the geographical limitations of this be? Under this program, if the student got into legal trouble in [inaudible] or something, I can see that getting really messy. Is this limited to just within Canada?

Charlie: Because the way the legal profession is regulated, you have to be part of the bar in a province, so an Ontario lawyer can only practice in Ontario and practice Ontario Canadian law. The program covers the entire country and is specifically catered to the province where your academic institution is located, but that doesn't mean that if you travel to Ottawa or something like that, that you won't have access to the program. It's just it's catered to the province you're in, so the situations a student might face most frequently. And overseas you'll have access to the legal helpline so they can give you some information, however the lawyer might not have much experience with other legislation than Canadian or BC legislation.

Tayo: Wondering how this proposed service would connect to other resources on campus. I understand that we currently have the LSAT which is run by law students of the law school and also have actual lawyers as guides that sometimes help students. We have a pro-bono access. We also have, [the Student Legal Fund Society], a fund to help students at UBC pursue legal action, and we had a presentation on that last Council. I'm just wondering how this proposed program will interact with other resources that UBC students currently have.

Bahareh: That's a great question. Initially that was one of the things we really had to evaluate and see, are there comparables in the market. I'll take the on-campus legal program through UBC Law. While it's a fantastic resource and it's absolutely open to the community, the student and non-student community alike, their ability to support cases is limited in that 1) you're dealing with a law student and while they're actively working towards getting their designation and obviously there's supervisors in place to support them, they can't take every single case that comes their way. They have their mandate and certain criteria that you have to meet in order to be able to access that service. So that's just one thing. The nature of this as a legal protection program is that it's unlimited and it's available to any student at any time facing any situation, when it comes to just getting legal advice. And with respect to the four categories of coverage, so housing, academic disputes, employment disputes, and human rights complaints that would be funneled through the Human Rights Tribunal, that's actual legal representation in civil court. If your case meets the criteria to be accepted, it will not be rejected, if that makes sense. Whereby a lot of pro-bono services and



not for profit organizations that are very education based, while fantastic, and I fully support the work they do, and they need to be bolstered and continue to receive support, cannot guarantee that the population as a whole will have the same level of care.

Charlie: And I would just like to add that there's an opportunity for collaboration between existing services and this one also.

Teesha: Has there been any schools that have gotten to the survey point that have actually found that their students didn't want justice services, that didn't want this program?

Charlie: Since I started working on this, I've worked with the various associations at McGill, Windsor, a few other ones in Ontario. Up to this point the results of the surveys have been quite overwhelmingly favourable to having access to such a program. So in general there's good opinion on it and the engagement is fairly high. Results have been within weeks, we get the quota to be a relevant survey.

Bahareh: For the committee right now, we are looking at two avenues of surveying. One would be conducted by StudentCare first, it would be a closed pool of students who would be randomized and follow protocols we would need for it to be statistically relevant. And there would be a secondary survey with those same questions that would just be asked to the population as a whole. That's currently what's been discussed. Going to have avenues to review survey results potentially from two different subsets for UBC campus.

Alireza: I had a question regarding the price restructure. In the event that it's found that there are overlapping already in place services at UBC that cover student legal fees, is there flexibility in the price structure where instead of the flat \$30 fee there would be a reduced fee that would take into account the fact that some of those services are offered by UBC run student initiatives?

Bahareh: Unfortunately just based on the evaluation and where we hope the program to be with proper communication, it has to be set at the \$29.50. Obviously we don't want to detract or dissuade students from accessing other services - if it was to be implemented, it would be accessible by 50,000 students and of those any given students could remove themselves from the program. It would be very convoluted if we were to do that and quite possibly render the program inaccessible or inapplicable.

Lihwen: My question is about selection criteria. I know this pool of funds would be shared amongst other regions around Canada but I'm particularly interested in how cases would be selected and if they're set on a national criteria or is it more specific to each school by themselves, whether it would be something the Executive Committee would work on, or something you would have to conform to meet this standard across the country.

Charlie: It's actually provincial. There's a program that's developed to specifically meet the rules and regulations, specific legislation that exists in BC. Human rights complaints in BC are made to Human Rights Tribunal, and are violations of Human Rights Code, which is different in other provinces, so that process is specific to how it works in BC. In terms of selection of cases, every student who feels they have a case gets to speak with a lawyer, doesn't matter how many students require this. If our capacity gets exceeded by the amount of [inaudible], we'll create extra capacity by taking law firms on board and creating capacity. Every student gets to speak to a lawyer to decide whether or not their case is worthy of continuing. If through this consultation there's an agreement that the case is unfounded, that's what the legal advice will be. If the student disagrees with this, there's a built-in appeals process within the program where a third-party lawyer will be retained to review this particular decision and if they agree or not, that's what the lawyer will say. And if the student disagrees with that third-party decision, then the second level of appeals where a college of peers, which means a college of randomly selected executive from all the associations in the program, get



to review the case and make a decision themselves. The other aspect to the choosing is the lawyer is required by the bar to abide by some rules and they have to ensure they do their job right and give proper advice. Can't just deny something based on lack of time, for instance.

Gillian: To follow up on what was just said, if the students at UBC are surveyed in favour of this and it is applied, is that appeals process one that can be debated? Because first of all, any complainant will think they have a justified case regardless of whether it is legally tenable, so having an initial appeals process is totally good in that they might want a second opinion. But I'm curious and concerned about the jury of peers because I don't think the average executive member, and I have the highest esteem for our current executives, they aren't lawyers. Are they even able to speak to these sorts of issues and is that a good way to use time and resources?

Bahareh: There are so many steps that would need to happen before it gets to the college of peers, and the intention of having that final appeal is to say that this is a service by the students for the students. Obviously the committee evaluating will see the opinions laid out by the lawyers who've reviewed prior. But ultimately if that was the point of contention, if the AMS and GSS decided that two lawyers is enough for us, we don't want to facilitate that, we don't have to. We can remove that as from the service offering. That's not going to be the make or break for the service functioning.

Charlie: That's right, we've never gotten to this point. It's there to ensure that it meets the principles that are guiding being student-focused, by students for students.

WHEREAS the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee is an existing governance joint body between the AMS and the GSS, and

WHEREAS StudentCare, the third-party administrator of the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan has raised the possibility of providing a legal service to students, and

WHEREAS the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee is a suitable committee to coordinate exploring a new joint AMS/GSS service.

BIRT the GSS Council authorizes the President, Vice President University & Academic Affairs, and the graduate student representative to the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee, to explore the creation of a legal support service for students.

BIRFT the GSS Council consents to the service analysis being led by the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee.

DISCUSSION

Julia: I have some thoughts for the GSS at this exploratory position. Don't see any reason to vote no on this tonight. But number of things Tayo spoke on that I want to emphasize. Students already pay for Student Legal Fund Society which is quite unique compared to other schools that might have this service, AMS has its own advocacy office, as does GSS, where people can go to for issues like Math 100 example. AMS is also looking at creating housing service that could help students deal with tenancy disputes. Really want to highlight how much it would be useful for AMS and GSS to do an analysis into existing services that are offered and for information on these to be made into consideration for whatever survey is released to students. Many students aren't aware we have SLFS, one of the reasons why they have a lot of funds leftover. \$29.50 is a lot for a fee. UBC comparatively offers comparatively a lot



more services than those other student unions. Want those to be big cautionary notes for this exploratory quest but see no reason we shouldn't explore this option.

Nicolas: Thank you for those comments. I will speak here to the detriment of my own relations, what we're talking about here is just to explore this option. Thank you to StudentCare for showing us this but it's just one model service. Huge leap from here to this model service. Not looking to move forward with this, but just to explore it. We'll come back to Council before we go to any step that would involve an extra fee. Permission to, with AMS and H&D committee, to explore and survey.

Alireza: Even if we decide not to go with this, might want to see if there are other holes that we can look into with StudentCare, might be other services we can provide.

Nicolas: Point of order, sorry, that is outside the scope of what we are discussing here.

Speaker: Point of order taken.

Mover: VPUAA

Seconded: Kimani Karangu

Result: Carried

FOR (25): Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Torin McLachlan, Daniel He, Ginny Pichler, Julia Burnham, Mohammad Karimi, Younus Ahmed, Abdullah Hassan, Jenny Lee, Axel Hauduc, Sarah Park, Jackson Schumacher, Nevena Rebic, Lihwen Hsu, Alison McClean, Mostafa Hagar, Jin Wen, Maria Jose Martinez, Perrin Waldock, Andrew Zang, Aaron Loewen, Hannah Green, Teesha Luehr, Edgar Liao, Saud Lingawi; **AGAINST (1):** Maryam Tayyab; **ABSTAIN (3):** Kimani Karangu, Shiva Zargar, Nicolas Romualdi

1.4 GSS FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT 2020

Group responsible: Auditor, Chartered Profession Accountants

Presentation time: 15 minutes

Presentation description: Audit report for the financial year ended May 31st, 2020

Proposed objective: Approval of draft financial report

Relevant materials: [2020 Financial Report - FS20 \(draft #3\) - GSS of UBC](#)

BIRT the financial report for 2020 be approved as presented.

Mover: FEOO

Seconded: Jackson Schumaker

Result: Carried, none opposed

DISCUSSION

Nicolas: I would like to thank Erik for the work put into this, I didn't have a chance to interact with him as I was president during the year that he was auditing for. I want to thank everyone involved that works tirelessly to result in the clean papers we have.

Tayo: Thank you to General Manager, Accountant and President, big thank you on behalf of the Society.



2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [November 19, 2020](#)

Mover: Kimani Karangu

Second: Abdullah Hassan

Result: Carried

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	October 26, 2020	House Finance Committee:	October 1, 2020; October 6, 2020; November 26, 2020
Code and Policy Committee:	November 4, 2020; November 18, 2020	Human Resources Committee:	October 29, 2020
Elections Committee:	October 8, 2020	Services Committee:	October 28, 2020
Executive Committee:	October 9, 2020	AMS Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee:	October 13, 2020; November 13, 2020; November 17, 2020	Graduate Council Caucus:	November 27, 2020
Governance & Accountability Committee:	October 29, 2020	Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:	
All-Chairs Meeting:	October 9, 2020		

Mover: Kimani

Second: Shiva

Result: Carried, none opposed

DISCUSSION

Jin: Thank you everyone for submitting minutes, this is awesome. Please keep it up for the subsequent meetings.

Kimani: I want to point out to the All-Chairs committee, there's a new one, it'll be very important for people to see what their chairs do. And congratulations to all the chairs for coming together each month to discuss, and salute.



3 SEATINGS

3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Bethany Adair	Medical Genetics
Taryn Scarff	Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries
William Canero	School of Community and Regional Planning
Virginia Pichler	Microbiology and Immunology

Mover: Lihwen Hsu

Second: Andrew Zang

Result: Carried

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		Representative	0
Faculty of Arts Council	Torin McLachlan	Representative	2
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

Mover: Aaron Loewen

Second: Shiva Zargar

Result: Carried

FOR (28): Julia Burnham, Shiva Zargar, Taryn Scarff, Mark Pampuch, Bethany Adair, Hannah Green, Abdullah Hassan, Saud Lingawi, Teesha Luehr, Yundi Wang, Edgar Liao, Axel Hauduc, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Ginny Pichler, Maria Jose Martinez, Nicolas Romualdi, Kimani Karangu, Jenny Lee, Alejandra Botia, Gillian Glass, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Perrin Waldock, Aaron Loewen, Alison McClean, Mostafa Hargar, Andrew Zang, Arwa Nemir, Daniel He

DISCUSSION

Nicolas: We are allowed by the Faculty of Arts to appoint up to two students to the Arts Council. It's somewhat similar to Grad Council that makes the legislative decisions within the Faculty. These positions are best served by students



that are in the Faculty of Arts and are interested in making decisions within the Faculty. This is a somewhat unique opportunity extended to us by them and I would encourage students from the Faculty of Arts to participate in this because if we don't we're losing the opportunity to speak on issues that are relevant. So if anyone here from Arts would like to appoint themselves to this, that would be appreciated.

Torin: I would love to sit on the council and make sure the GSS is represented there and bring insights back to the GSS and my English department. I nominate myself. I'm a new councillor, I also sit on the HR Committee, but I'm confident that I'll be able to carry these out simultaneously.

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
		Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	2
Elections	Taryn Scarff	Councillor	1
		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		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3
Services		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	2
Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee	William Canero	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3



Mover: Aaron Loewen **Second:** Abdul Ahad Ahmadi **Result:** Carried

DISCUSSION:

Mostafa: Want to motivate to encourage people to join Elections. To summarize what we do, we work on facilitating elections for the GSS Executive positions and improve engagement over wider student base. Would be really nice to get one more Councillor because we're about to shrink and we have a lot of stuff coming up. I nominate Taryn to join Elections Committee and fill that Councillor position. Will be more positions opening up soon.

Speaker: Do you accept the nomination?

Taryn: Yeah that's fine.

Jackson: I'd like to nominate William Canero for Strat Plan.

Speaker: Do you accept the nomination?

William: Thank you, I accept.

Andrew: Yeah just wanted to throw my hat in for joining the Elections Committee as well. Elections coming up soon, going to be an exciting time. If anyone wants to join now, Services would be appreciated. Highly suggest it.

Speaker: Okay we'll have an election if there's two councillors interested. Mostafa you said someone is leaving soon? In that case I recommend one of you just observe and join when a spot opens up.

Andrew: Sorry, I only meant to motivate, I didn't realize the councillor seats were so low. Taryn can take the seat.

Taryn: I'm happy with either, I'm new.

Speaker: Councillors are recommended to sit on at least one committee, so maybe Taryn can have it.

Taryn: Yeah that works.

Aaron: CPC, we work on policy and bylaws. Great committee if you're new. Get to connect with and see what other committees do at the same time.

Gillian: I chair HR, we make sure the staff have everything they need to get their jobs done, also look at job descriptions and hiring at GSS. If you're interested in helping effect change and make sure everyone has what they need, hang out with us at HR.

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 December 2021:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Chemical and Biological Engineering (CHBE) Graduate Student Council	Charf Khalifa
GrasPods (BC Cancer Graduate Student and Post Doctoral Fellow Society)	Angela Mo
Geography Graduate Student Association	Albina Gibadullina
Institute of Ocean and Fisheries Graduate Student Society	Ron Togunov
IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Safe Space)	Sasha Gaylie

Mover: VP Students

Second: Andrew

Result: Carried

4.2 CONSENT AGENDA

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: Bylaw changes for AGM 2021 and/or the next referendum.

Proposed Objective: To submit items for AGM 2021 and/or the next referendum.

Relevant items: [2020_12 CPC Consent Agenda.pdf](#)

Time: 5 minutes

WHEREAS these Bylaw amendments had been previously approved in Council to be brought to the 2020 AGM, and

WHEREAS the 2020 AGM did not reach quorum,

BIRT the following motions be included in the next referendum and/or Annual General Meeting of the GSS, whichever comes first:

4.2.1 Executive Vacancies, Including Absences; 4.2.2 Councillor Training Procedures; 4.2.3 Bylaw 3.10 and Others Regarding Rights of Members; 4.2.4 Strategic Framework; 4.2.5 Executives on the Executive Oversight Committee; 4.2.6 Written Resolutions of Council; 4.2.7 Honorary Membership

Mover: CPC

Second: Jackson Schumaker

Result: Carried



4.3 BYLAW AMENDMENT: AMENDING POLICY MANUAL AND BYLAWS

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: Bylaw 2, Bylaw 13, and Policy 1.2: Amending Policy Manual and Bylaws

Proposed Objective: To submit an item for AGM 2021 and/or the next referendum.

Time: 5 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Revision Form – Bylaws 2 and 13 - AmendmentsProcedure.pdf](#)

WHEREAS a version of this Bylaw amendment had been previously approved in Council to be brought to the 2020 AGM,

WHEREAS the previous version allowed for formatting errors to be corrected in Bylaws but not the Policy Manual

WHEREAS CPC believes that the spirit of the original amendment was to allow for formatting errors to be corrected in both the Bylaws and the Policy Manual

BIRT the following motion be included in the next referendum and/or Annual General Meeting of the GSS, whichever comes first:

WHEREAS the Policy Manual and Bylaws contain typographical and formatting errors,

WHEREAS correcting these errors, where they do not affect meaning, should not require as stringent an approval process as a change in the meaning of the text, but should still include checks to ensure the process is not abused,

WHEREAS furthermore, the requirements for providing 7 days notice of a Policy Manual amendment has in the past prevented policy amendments from being brought expediently to Council,

WHEREAS in the past 15 months we have received no comments from the general membership on proposed policy amendments as a result of this notice,

WHEREAS requiring notice of the policy amendment to be included in the Council agenda, which is made available on the website 48 hours in advance of the meeting, is sufficient to ensure these amendments are properly considered, and

WHEREAS temporary amendments and suspensions of policy are an emergency procedure and should not require notice,

BIRT Bylaw 2.2 be adopted as described in the Revision Form – Bylaw 2 and 13 AmendmentsProcedure.pdf ("the amendment form").

BIFRT Bylaw 13.1.4 and 13.1.5 be repealed and replaced with Bylaws 13.1.4 through 13.1.6 as described in the amendment form, and Bylaw 13.3.2 be repealed and replaced with Bylaw 13.3.2 as described in the amendment form.

BIFRT Policy 1.2 be repealed and replaced with the Policy 1.2 contained in the amendment form.

Mover: CPC

Second: Abdullah Hassan

Result: Carried



4.4 BYLAW AMENDMENT: GSFA FEE REFERENDUM

Group responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: Creation of a Separate Fee to Support the GSFA

Proposed objective: To submit an item for referendum.

Time: 5 mins

WHEREAS the GSS Council passed a motion during February 2020 Council to include an item regarding the GSFA fees for AGM,

WHEREAS under the University Act 27.1.2.1, changes to student society fees that include a service fee must be approved by a majority in a referendum,

BIRT that the same motion from February Council, as well as seen below, be included in the next referendum:

WHEREAS the GSS began administering a Graduate Student Financial Aid (GSFA) in 2019, and

WHEREAS the GSFA's purpose is to provide assistance to graduate students who face unexpected financial hardship, as described in Policy 15, and

WHEREAS currently, funding for the GSFA is allocated from the GSS operational budget, under the recommendation of the Vice President University and Academic Affairs (VP UAA), subject to review and approval by the House Finance Committee (HF) and the GSS Council, and

WHEREAS this funding structure represents a severe risk to the continuity of the fund.

BIRT a direct annual fee of \$2.00 be created for members of the GSS effective immediately, to be collected and reserved for funding the Graduate Student Financial Aid. The fee shall be adjusted annually according to CPI starting from the year after the implementation of the fee.

Mover: CPC

Seconded: Andrew Zang

Result: Carried

FOR (29): Kimani Karangu, Teesha Luehr, Axel Hauduc, Jenny Lee, Jackson Schumacher, Jin Wen, Perrin Waldock, Torin McLachlan, Shiva Zargar, Taryn Scarff, Alison McClean, Mostafa Hargar, Hannah Green, Nevena Rebic, Abdullah Hassan, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Bethany Adair, William Canero, Ginny Pichler, Yundi Wang, Sarah Park, Nicolas Romualdi, Andrew Zang, Saud Lingawi, Maria Jose Martinez, Julia Burnham, Aaron Loewen, Edgar Liao, Daniel He

DISCUSSION

Nicolas: Just want to provide some context for this particularly for the new councillors. There's currently the GSFA program, began operating last year. That was large increase in spending in this account, it assists students in financial distress. Currently funding is completely at discretion of VPUAA and while we funded it last year and this year, program faces huge threat that particular exec team may decide not to fund the program. Program has resulted in help to many students in vulnerable financial position as a result of an unexpected event. Encourage everyone to vote in favour so we can make this work like CPIF and restrict these funds we collect to only work to this effect.



4.5 BYLAW AMENDMENT: EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Group responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: Revisions to Bylaw 8.2: Executive Elections

Proposed objective: To submit an item for AGM 2021 and/or the next referendum.

Time: 5 mins

WHEREAS the Bylaws currently provide no procedure for preventing a conflict of interest in the event that a Financial and Executive Oversight Officer wishes to run or a different executive office before the end of their term as FEOO,

WHEREAS in the event of a resignation, a current executive might be presented with the opportunity for a second office, and this should also be prevented,

WHEREAS the current Bylaws do not prevent GSS executives from holding an executive office in the AMS,

WHEREAS in the opinion of CPC, holding executive offices in both the GSS and AMS could present a conflict of interest and should be prevented,

WHEREAS the following mandates a minimum standard for these situations,

BIRT the following be included in the next referendum and/or Annual General Meeting of the GSS, whichever comes first [changes to Bylaws marked in bold and italics]:

WHEREAS the Bylaws currently provide no procedure for preventing a conflict of interest in the event that a Financial and Executive Oversight Officer wishes to run or a different executive office before the end of their term as FEOO,

WHEREAS in the event of a resignation, a current executive might be presented with the opportunity for a second office, and this should also be prevented,

WHEREAS the current Bylaws do not prevent GSS executives from holding an executive office in the AMS,

WHEREAS holding executive offices in both the GSS and AMS could present a conflict of interest and should be prevented,

WHEREAS the following mandates a minimum standard for these situations,

BIRT Bylaw 8.2.2 and 8.2.3 be revised to read:

- 8.2.2 The Financial and Executive Oversight officer will be elected at the July council meeting and take office on August 31st. ***Anyone holding the position of Financial and Executive Oversight Officer after the December Council meeting prior to an executive election is ineligible to run for any other executive office in the GSS for that election. The Financial and Executive Oversight Officer must announce their intent to resign no later than 2 weeks before the December Council if they choose to contest for another executive office.***



- 8.2.3 The responsibility for proper conduct of elections shall lie with Council. ***Council may delegate the associated tasks and decision making through the Policy Manual.***

BIFRT Bylaws 8.2.8 and 8.2.9 be adopted as follows:

- 8.2.8 ***No person shall hold more than one executive office within the GSS simultaneously. This does not preclude an executive temporarily performing the duties of another executive.***
- 8.2.9 ***No person shall simultaneously hold an executive office in the GSS and AMS. Any person who holds both an executive office in the AMS and an executive office in the GSS will be dismissed effectively immediately from their executive office in the GSS. Any person who announces a candidacy for an AMS executive position is immediately disqualified from the GSS election for that same year.***

Mover: CPC

Seconder: Andrew Zang

Result: Carried

FOR (28): Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Mark Pampuch, Edgar Liao, Torin McLachlan, Shiva Zargar, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Teesha Luehr, Mostafa Hargar, Taryn Scarff, Yundi Wang, Jackson Schumacher, Perrin Waldock, Aaron Loewen, Jenny Lee, Gillian Glass, Alison McClean, Kimani Karangu, Bethany Adair, Nicolas Romualdi, William Canero, Sarah Park, Maria Jose Martinez, Andrew Zang, Abdullah Hassan, Nevena Rebic, Hannah Green, Julia Burnham, Daniel He

DISCUSSION

Jackson: Quick question. Any provisions prohibiting someone from holding a position in the GSS and another organization that is not the AMS, like an affiliate organization?

Aaron: This was brought up but we felt that it was not to the same level as we considered the GSS and AMS to be. But that's a valid point. We could always revisit that as necessary, but that is not of the opinion at the moment that that would be problematic.

Nicolas: This may be a different point to consider, and point well-taken. But I don't think we have an assessment done fully to do that at this time. Maybe CPC can take another look at this.

Speaker: For explanation many of the Councillors here are presidents of their affiliate organizations and the elected representative here so be sure to consider that.

4.6 #STUDENTSFORLOUJAIN CAMPAIGN

Group responsible: VP External

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: Introduce campaign calling for release of UBC Alumna, Loujain al-Hathloul

Proposed objective: Seek endorsement from Council



Relevant materials: <http://studentsforloujain.ca/>

WHEREAS Loujain al-Hathloul is a University of British Columbia (UBC) alumna and former AMS member, and

WHEREAS Loujain is a prominent advocate for women's rights to equality, and is well-known for her role in the Women to Drive Movement and was named Time's Magazines Top 100 Most Influential People in 2019, and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020, and

WHEREAS Loujain has been detained since 2018 and concerns for her deteriorating health are growing, and

WHEREAS UBC President as well as The Faculty Association have both expressed their solidarity and support for Loujain and have called for Loujain's unconditional release, and

WHEREAS as UBC student community, UBC AMS, GSS and SUO have prepared the #StudentsForLoujain campaign in solidarity with Loujain and with the aim of urging the Canadian government to advocate for and secure Loujain's immediate safe release,

BIRT Council endorses the #StudentsForLoujain campaign.

Mover: VP External

Seconded: Jackson Schumaker

Result:

DISCUSSION

Alireza: Want to build on this campaign we've been working on, a collaboration with UBC Okanagan. There was a closed hearing for Loujain today. On the website there's a tab where everyone can take action personally, and you can sign Loujain's wall.

Kimani: Thanks for bringing this matter to our attention. It breaks my heart to see this, we come to university to make a change and to see this happen, it doesn't go well with me especially as an international student. I urge all of us, it goes beyond our mandate, but sometimes it calls on human nature and goodwill to serve each other. 2020 has brought us together, because we understand we are affected equally by our circumstances. It is our responsibility. Today it's Loujain, tomorrow it is Kimani. We cannot stand behind and see things go the wrong way. Stand and speak the truth and do what needs to be done.

Nicolas: I'd like to say that I'm personally very much in support of this campaign and I'd like to thank the VP External for spearheading this campaign. I was just made aware of a particular nuance, and I'd like to move an amendment that the motion to add a "BIFRT the campaign include a disclaimer advising Saudi Arabian citizens to be careful before using the hashtag"

Speaker: Let me know what you're trying to say and I'll help you draft the amendment.

Nicolas: I received a concern that Saudi Arabian citizens may face legal actions if they participate in the hashtag, and we have a number of Saudi Arabian members, I think we should add the relevant disclaimer to make sure no one does this inadvertently. Still their right and decision if they want to do this. I regret I wasn't aware of this beforehand.



Alireza: If I may suggest, I don't think this needs a BIFRT, as it doesn't involve an action by the Society. I can just add it to the letter and the website.

Speaker: Debating against adding this BIFRT amendment?

Alireza: Yes, since I don't think it's necessary. Can easily add that disclaimer to the website itself. Would ask Mr. VPUAA if that would address the concern.

Nicolas: I have full confidence in VP External in his ability to communicate this. Did this to avoid speaking twice but if you feel this is sufficient, I am happy with this.

Speaker: I would agree, this would be very difficult to craft legally. This is in the minutes anyways.

Nicolas: I agree, I apologize.

Speaker: Okay we're going to vote on the motion. The motion at hand is whether we add the BIFRT amendment. We are voting to adopt this amendment into the main motion or if you vote against, it will be removed from the motion.

Kimani: I want to speak in favour of keeping it, because I want it in the record. In a few years I will not be here, Alireza and Nicolas will not be here. What we do we do for future generations.

Speaker: Okay I took the liberty of drafting this motion, if Gillian still feels comfortable seconding, we can discuss this. If you feel this motion should stay here, please speak up and help us amend this motion. Right now, it reads "BIFRT the campaign include a disclaimer advising caution to Saudi Arabian citizens before using this hashtag for potential legal consequences". Any other debates?

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi **Second:** Gillian Glass **Result:**

William: Point of information, will this disclaimer regardless go into the website?

Nicolas: Yes.

Sarah: Is there a reason we're not just doing a blanket statement in the BIFRT where we're not restricting it to a certain country and just advising of legal consequences?

Jackson: One question for whoever is moving the amendment, instead of the wording being that the campaign include a disclaimer, maybe it could just be that the GSS advises caution since we don't have control over the campaign but we do have control over what we advise. Would Nicolas, if he heard what I proposed, take that as friendly?

Speaker: I can't take that as friendly because now this belongs to the council. What was your proposal?

Jackson: To take out the section that the campaign includes a disclaimer, and say that the GSS advises etc.

Speaker: I'll take that as a further amendment. The GSS advises caution. I need a seconder for this amendment

Speaker: Any discussion on changing to the GSS advises?



Nevena: Not so much an amendment but I've seen online studies say things like "if you engage with this post online, we don't have control over who sees it", so that could change how you phrase it but I overall agree with the idea of we have power over what we tell students, not what is seen online once they engage with something. So that kind of language Jackson suggests, we can say "cautions that engaging with this post online where your name is going to be public..." I can see what other studies do and come back to the group. Do a quick Twitter search.

Speaker: Right now we're focusing on the one amendment. We're in amendment on amendment so I'm going to be strict. We're changing to "the GSS advises" from "the campaign includes". If there's no more discussion on this particular change, we'll make that change.

Mover: Jackson Schumaker

Second: Nicolas Romualdi

Result: Carried

FOR (24): Mark Pampuch, Nevena Rebic, Mostafa Hagar, Andrew Zang, Yundi Wang, Shiva Zargar, Alison McClean, Daniel He, Sarah Park, Taryn Scarff, Ginny Pichler, Nicolas Romualdi, Bethany Adair, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Aaron Loewen, Teesha Luehr, Jin Wen, Jackson Schumacher, Perrin Waldock, Abdullah Hassan, Hannah Green, William Canero, Torin McLachlan, Julia Burnham; **AGAINST (1):** Alireza Kamyabi

Speaker: Right now we are debating whether to have this BIRFT clause or not, and you can also propose an amendment of this amendment.

Nevena: I was going to suggest the language of "that publicly engaging with this campaign this information may be public and there be consequences particularly for Saudi Arabian citizens". I just provided language, not a sentence, so if anyone wants to take the ball, that would be great.

Speaker: That's the same intent, but here is the amendment that Nevena has proposed. What we are needing is a seconder for Nevena's amendment, that reads "BIFRT the GSS advises that engaging with this campaign, this information may be public and there may be consequences for Saudi Arabian citizens".

William: Trying to wrap my head around this. We're saying that engaging with engaging with the hashtag is specifically contentious because it opens you up to litigation from the Saudi Arabian government. If that's right, I would suggest rephrasing to "a caution to Saudi Arabian citizens before sharing this online".

Nicolas: Point of order, we are talking about Nevena's amendment, and this is a different amendment to that, so we should vote on that first, then go back to my amendment before discussing *this* amendment.

Speaker: Point taken. As a Speaker, I would advise that we draft a more general motion rather than forcing it here. We can have Alireza draft something and bring it back. If people are alright with that, then we need to vote this down to simply the process. William, I'm not ignoring your suggestion, it's because that's another amendment which isn't what we're discussing here. I'll put that on hold until later.

Andrew: Point of information are we tabling this to another meeting or until later in this meeting?

Speaker: I don't have power to table. I'm just holding until we vote on the amendment. Now we are voting A or B. If you vote against, this is what you vote for: BIFRT the GSS advises caution for Saudi Arabian citizens before using this hashtag for potential legal consequences. If you vote in favour, it's this: BIFRT the GSS advises that engaging with this



campaign, this information may be public and there may be consequences for Saudi Arabian citizens. I recommend voting in one direction so we can pass this and then go back to drafting the amendment and remove it.

Mover: Nevena Rubic

Seconders: Alireza Kamyabi

Result: Carried

FOR (15): Shiva Zargar, Kimani Karangu, Jackson Schumacher, Yundi Wang, Aaron Loewen, Bethany Adair, Andrew Zang, Teesha Luehr, Torin McLachlan, William Canero, Taryn Scarff, Ginny Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Alireza Kamyabi, Jenny Lee; **AGAINST (8):** Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Alison McClean, Daniel He, Abdullah Hassan, Perrin, Nicolas Romualdi, Hannah Green, Mark Pampuch; **ABSTAIN (4):** Sarah Park, Julia Burnham, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Edgar Liao

Speaker: Now we're going back to this main motion. So now Will, at this time we can think about whether we want to do the caution part or not.

William: Can I take that back?

Speaker: Yes you can. So now we want to know whether we want to add this or not: BIFRT the GSS advises that engaging with this campaign, this information may be public and there may be consequences for Saudi Arabian citizens. If you vote this down, it doesn't mean it's your last chance to amend this motion.

Abdul: Rather than just writing Saudi Arabian citizens, can we just write students from some countries? There can be students from other countries that could face those consequences.

Speaker: I'll take that as a proposal to amendment which means we'll go into amendment into amendment. You'll need to tell me exactly what kind of countries otherwise all I can say is "other countries".

Abdul: We can say "some countries".

Speaker: I have another amendment proposed, I need a seconder for this. Now we're discussing, do we want this one: [...] and there may be consequences for Saudi Arabian citizens, or this one: [...] for citizens of some countries.

Mover: Abdul Ahad Ahmadi

Seconders: Abdullah Hassan

Result: Carried

FOR (12): William Canero, Alireza Kamyabi, Alison McClean, Torin McLachlan, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Yundi Wang, Jenny Lee, Sarah Park, Kimani Karangu, Abdullah Hassan, Perrin Waldock, Hannah Green; **AGAINST (10):** Julia Burnham, Mostafa Hagar, Andrew Zang, Mark Pampuch, Daniel He, Nicolas Romualdi, Bethany Adair, Teesha Luehr, Taryn Scarff, Jackson Schumacher; **ABSTAIN (3):** Shiva Zargar, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Edgar Liao

Speaker: Now we're back to the amendment.

Nicolas: Preface by saying this is why training has a section advising against drafting a motion on the floor. I think I would encourage councillors just to vote, because either way I think the VP external has understood the intention and I don't think he will change what he does and we should trust he has the competence to carry out what we are discussing. Nailing the wording is not going to make a significant difference in the actions the VP External will take.



Speaker: If you vote in favour this part becomes part of the motion. If you vote against we get rid of this BIFRT. I didn't complain about drafting this motion on the floor, I usually do, but this is an urgent matter so I understand. Usually if it's not urgent, you have the motion really thought out to prevent this.

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi

Second: Gillian Glass

Result: Carried

FOR (27): Jackson Schumacher, Sarah Park, Shiva Zargar, Maria Jose Martinez, Bethany Adair, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Teesha Luehr, Torin McLachlan, Yundi Wang, Aaron Loewen, Julia Burnham, Jenny Lee, Ginny Pichler, Andrew Zang, Jin Wen, William Canero, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Alison McClean, Daniel He, Abdullah Hassan, Taryn Scarff, Mostafa Hagar, Kimani Karangu, Mark Pampuch, Perrin Waldock, Hannah Green, Nicolas Romualdi; **AGAINST (1):** Nevena Rubic

Speaker: Back to main motion.

Nicolas: Since this is a learning moment, I call to question.

Speaker: I will need a vote of two thirds, but when there is no one on the speaker's list, I don't need that because it doesn't violate anybody's right to speak, so I will set up the vote.

Mover: VP External

Second: Jackson Schumaker

Result: Carried

FOR (24): Ginny Pichler, Julia Burnham, Shiva Zargar, Sarah Park, Nevena Rebic, Abdul Ahad Ahmadi, Mark Pampuch, Abdullah Hassan, Aaron Loewen, Hannah Green, Yundi Wang, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, William Canero, Andrew Zang, Alison McClean, Torin McLachlan, Jackson Schumacher, Perrin Waldock, Teesha Luehr, Taryn Scarff, Kimani Karangu, Nicolas Romualdi, Alireza Kamyabi

Speaker: Carried unanimously, really good job guys.

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2020 GSS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Group responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Presentation time: 15 minutes

Presentation description: October and November 2020 GSS Financial Overview

Proposed objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures

Relevant materials: [October & November 2020 Financial presentation.pptx](#)

5.2 REMOTE INVIGILATION

Group responsible: VP UAA



Presentation time: 10 minutes

Description: The Academic & External Committee and the VP University & Academic Affairs have been working on a set of remote invigilation principles. The scope of these presentation is to present the outcome of these discussions, which have been forwarded to the UBC Senate for consideration.

Proposed objective: Inform Council

Relevant materials: [Online Proctoring Main Highlights Presentation – Council.pptx](#)

DISCUSSION

Nevena: Would be snapping if I was in the room, well done. Piling onto all the positive feedback you've received.

Nicolas: Thank you. If I can make a small correction, I didn't work on this, we did, there were a lot of people that worked on this. Just to name a few, Jackson, Julia, Ali, there's a lot of contribution into this.

5.3 SMART GOALS END OF TERM REPORT

Group responsible: G&A Committee

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Description: Final report on SMART Goals for Committees, Caucuses and FEOO.

Proposed objective: Report to Council for end-of-term.

Relevant materials: [2020-12-07 G&A End of Term Goal Review.pptx](#)

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

DISCUSSION

Julia: Could the president speak more about the meeting he had with the Provost?

Kimani: Yes we had a meeting to discuss the petition that has been going around on social media, and discussed ways to mitigate further damage. But as the Provost doesn't have direct vote, though he is a co-chair. To give more information, in the Faculty of Education, the head is set to retire. Hired a company that is supposed to look for a candidate that is to be taken to the hiring committee, and their name taken to the president for hiring. But what happened is that during the search, the initial stages, a few members that are so close to the issue were following keenly what was happening. It happened that according to the search and the news, I was able to gather through the students that may have heard information, and remember this isn't coming from the committee because they signed a non-disclosure, they realized the search process wasn't fair. Given the issue of EDI was given a priority, according to the info I was given, it was shortchanged. Issue was not reflecting the spirit of EDI. Having realized that, group of



students, faculty, and former faculty, staff, drafted a serious petition that saw it's way to the community and university. At the end of the day, it was signed by 150 people and sent to the Provost and committee. Response was given by Provost regarding the same matter, however some people do not feel the response was sufficient. Same people doing the petition saying they need more information. Need to look at issue of EDI on keen note, but easier said than done. To sum it up, yes the GSS was somehow consulted and as president I did give my sincere opinion on the issue. Maybe because of the opinion I gave and that of other people, and the resignation of the co-chair, that process has since been halted and postponed until next year when maybe there will be a one-on-one process that is more transparent and inclusive. Especially graduate student issues will be put forth.

Julia: I appreciate the confidential nature of these discussions. To clarify, was your meeting before or after the memos that went out to the Faculty of Education?

Kimani: I talked to the Provost after noting there was the petitions was making rounds on social media. Through the GSS mechanism I was able to reach out to the Provost's office and the Provost was able to get back to the GSS to discuss a few issues.

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Skill-Share Series: Cooking with Nicolas Romualdi! – Dec 16th
- Winter Orientation: Virtual Speed Friending – Jan 5th
- Winter Orientation: Virtual Flow Yoga – Jan 6th
- Winter Orientation: Virtual DIY Soap Making – Jan 7th
- Winter Orientation: Virtual Trivia – Jan 8th

6.2 EXECUTIVES

President

- **Goal Review with EOC:** Executives' smart goals have been reviewed. Positive feedback provided and support promised. Presented at council.
- **GSS Strategic Planning Comm.:** Critical discussions and questions regarding a GGS's sustainable future (plan). Key priority areas highlighted. The Ad hoc committee will continue with the discussions within the GSS.
- **Tuition Consultation:** Ongoing discussion with the VPS office together with the GSS VPUAA
- **The Anti-Racism Taskforce (ART) Survey:** The ART resolved to collecting more data from students to corroborate their findings. The survey is due for distribution in 2021.
- **Petition Discussion with the Provost:** Held a discussion with the Provost regarding a circulating petition on and off campus (community). The petition made rounds on and off campus social medial platforms regarding the hiring process of the dean in the faculty of education. Following, resignation of a key member of the PAC committee the process has been postponed till next year (2021).
- **Disabled Graduate Student Association:** Held an interview with a writer for The Ubysey, who was writing a story about a possible Disabled Graduate Student Association. Topic touched on what the GSS already does for grad students with disabilities and agreed that the GSS would support an affiliate organization "Disabled Graduate Student Association"



- **Privacy Policy Assistant Position:** GSS has secured a seasoned PPA. The HR Committee and the Office of the president were keen in fast-tracking the process for the significance and urgency bestowed in the said position. (HR Search committee: Reviewing CVs and cover letters, shortlisting, interviewing and recommending the best candidate for hire to the HR. committee)
- **Virtual Book Launch “One who dreams is called a prophet”:** One of the GSS’s (AOs) affiliate organizations, Liu Institute Network for Africa (LINA) was tasked with the registration, advertising, hosting and moderating a virtual book launch. The GSS president was honored to lead the launch in the moderator’s capacity. The virtual launch was a great success! (attendance and quality of the discussion)

FEEO

- Engaged in disbursing funds to relevant departments.
- Engaged in meetings to work on concerns that arose from 2020/21 executive’s midterm reviews.

VP University & Academic Affairs

- **Remove Invigilation:** The VP UAA, in consultation with the Academic and External Committee and with the collaboration of the Policy Analyst have developed a number of principles for the use of remote invigilation tools. A presentation consolidating the recommendations was delivered to the associate Provost academic, the director of the centre for teaching and learning technology (CTLT) and the chair of the teaching and learning committee of Senate. The presentation was well received and will inform the discussions at the committee.
- **Community Food Insecurity Measurement Framework:** The development of the food insecurity measurement framework continues. A set of broad themes that affect food insecurity have been identified and the scholar is now working on key indicators to measure severity in each theme.
- **PhD Minimum Funding Increase:** The increase from 18 kCAD/year to 22 kCAD/year was approved by Graduate Council. The VP UAA would like to extend its appreciation to all the members of the Graduate Council Caucus who have collaborated to this outcome.
- Work with the faculty will continue in developing a longer term multi year plan to ensure that continued increases take place.
- **UBC Budget Process:** The GSS is actively participating in the budget process for the upcoming UBC fiscal year. Specific focus is being given to unresolved issues from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which include offsetting time lost as a result of the research curtailment and funding for necessary extensions. The University is currently running a deficit, so the allocations of additional resources is difficult, but work will continue in this direction nonetheless.

VP External

- (none submitted)

VP Students

- (none submitted)



6.3 COMMITTEES

Academic & External Committee

- Finalized conversations on Proctorio. The committee is now comfortable with the direction that has been set for advocacy, and the core values that we hold in relation to academic surveillance software.
- Discussed end-of-term goals updates for G&A reporting.
- Brainstormed ideas for a future workshop/retreat/crash-course on university and external advocacy, ahead of future goal setting in the new year. Noted the limitations/barriers to participation and involvement in AcEx without expertise in these areas.
- Received a presentation from the VPUAA on the different surveys conducted for graduate students at the university as we navigate figuring out what's the best use of our resources/time, survey fatigue etc.

Code & Policy Committee

- Deadline to submit feedback for the GSS Code of Conduct is December 17 (1 week)! Please use the following link to complete the survey:
- CPC has been working with Elections Committee on updating policies and procedures for complaints.
- CPC has been working on reviewing the paper-based versus web-based versions of the Waiver Form.
- CPC has submitted their updates on the progress of their 2020 SMART goals to G&A.
- CPC has been amending previous motions that were intended for the 2020 AGM to bring to either a referendum or 2021 AGM.

Elections Committee

- Worked on new elections policies with CPC and reviewed SMART goals

Executive Committee

- Met with Dean Susan Porter of G+PS and deliberated on issues about minimum funding and the GLC

Executive Oversight Committee

- EOC is currently having discussions on executive time commitments and remuneration.

Governance & Accountability Committee

- We currently have a backlog of meeting minutes to write up. Will try to use the winter hiatus to catch up on minutes
- In the process of finalizing the Indigenous Engagement Ad-hoc Committee ToR to send to CPC
- Finalizing the list of Department representatives and will present in Jan or Feb Council.
- Completed the SMART Goal end of year report. - Currently still discussing on various methods to address councillor complaints as well as improve councillor training on conflict resolution.



House Finance Committee

- HF Committee submitted an update on its SMART goals to the G&A Committee. One of the goals involved updating the GSS Booking Policy in the GSS Policy manual. HF Committee is coordinating with CPC to get the Policy manual updated.
- Budget actuals for Sept 2020 reviewed and approved by the HF Committee.
- Salary increases for three permanent GSS employees approved by the HF Committee. Details on all of the above 3 points can be reviewed in the set of meeting minutes submitted.

Human Resources

- Minutes are being submitted for the HR Committee meeting of October 29, 2020.
- Since the last GSS Council, the HR Committee has approved several hiring recommendations, has reviewed the past year's HR SMART goals, and set tentative goals for the 2020-2021 year.

Services Committee

- Working on moving forward with updated smart goals.

Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- In Lieu of official committee meetings we have been conducting SWOT analyses meetings with various committee chairs and executives on council. We have been taking notes on these meeting that we will compile into our final SWOT analyses report.
- SPAHC is currently in the middle of conducting our SWOT analyses on the society. So far we have held meetings with Kimani, GSS advocacy experts (VP AUA, VPX, advocacy coordinator), governance experts (G&A chair, CPC chair, AA) and student engagement experts (events manager, AA, VP students, elections chair, services chair). We are in the process of booking a meeting with Margaret Kovach (UBC prof and faculty advisor for SAGE) to discuss indigenous student priorities.

AMS Caucus

- We held an informal meeting to discuss strategy regarding the AMS events audit but it only included 2 AMS caucus members and several other council members (Advocacy chair, VP students, services chair) so we did not take minutes.
- AMS caucus held a meeting with Ben Hill (our comms director) and Ian Stone (AMS senior services manager) to discuss how to better advertise AMS services to grad students. As a result the GSS newsletter will now contain blurbs about relevant AMS services. We have also discussed putting up AMS safe walk fliers in lab spaces around campus. If you know of a UBC space (labs, residence, etc) and want to advertise free, safe transportation for students there, please get in touch with me at schumacher@psych.ubc.ca.

Graduate Council Caucus

- **Academic Policy:** The committee discussed how to move to a hybrid teaching system for professional masters. Post-graduation work permits are a large concern and may require an in-person component. Need equipment to facilitate having some students on-site and some remote.



- **Discussion about students taking courses outside their program:** The language about this is a bit confusing, including whether “students shouldn’t take courses outside their program” is a formal policy or a suggestion. It’s felt that discouraging is not in line with broader goals about encouraging inter-disciplinary studies. One concern is that students sometimes perform less satisfactorily which can affect their ability to graduate, hence, it should be made clear that if they are taking a course they don’t have a strong background in, they are taking a real risk
- **Awards:** Discussion about assessing the proportion of awards and scholarships allocated to each major for planning purposes such as recommending new scholarship or any required changes. The evaluation should consider students’ citizenship, other funding opportunities such as TA-ship.
- **Curriculum:** The committee reviewed and approved new course proposals. PHAR 524 requires clarification regarding the criteria used to grade students’ oral exams. Consideration of 50% of the grade allocated for a 15-minute oral exam
- Light workload this Fall for GCC with larger program proposals headed to the committee over the new few meetings.
- **Funding:** The proposal to increase minimum funding for PhD students from 18k to 22k effective Sep 1st of 2021 was approved by Graduate Council with broad support. It is unclear where Senate will need to endorse the amendment, but in either case, it is expected that this would be a positive vote given the broad support in graduate council and the extensive consultation that took place. Programs are already being notified of this change to adjust funding offers. The change is retroactive, meaning that students who were admitted with guaranteed funding offers below 22k will have their packages adjusted to 22k starting Sep 1st 2021.

6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Senators:

- (None submitted)

Board of Governors Representatives:

- The Board met for its December cycle on Thursday December 3rd. Agendas and materials can be found online: <https://bog.ubc.ca/meeting-agenda-minutes/2020-agenda-packages-and-minutes/november-2020/>. In particular, the Board received a presentation from the [University Librarian on the Library](#) and from [Dr. David Patrick on UBC’s role in COVID-19 research](#).

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 21st at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Lihwen Hsu was unseated as Departmental Representative from Community and Regional Planning.
- Lihwen Hsu was unseated as Councillor from Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee.
- Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi was unseated as Departmental Representative from Obstetrics and Gynecology.



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- Alejandra Botia was unseated as Councillor from Elections Committee.

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Mover: Nicolas Romualdi

Second: Jin Wen

Result: Carried