



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Aaron Loewen, Adenike Adelakun, Alireza Kamyabi, Alison McClean, Andrew Zang, Axel Hauduc, Bethany Adair, Charfeddine Khalifa, Daniel He, Devarsh Bhonde, Edgar Liao, Farbod Moheb (proxy for Shiva Zargar), Gillian Glass, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Julia Burnham, Kimani Karangu, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Mostafa Hagar, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Perrin Waldock, Rachel Phillips, Sarah Park, Taryn Scarff, Teesha Luehr, Temitayo Olarewaju, Torin McLachlan, Virginia (Ginny) Pichler, Younus Ahmed, Yundi Wang, Charlotte Alden (Ubysey)

**Regrets:** Maryam Tayyab

**Absent:** Alejandra Botia, Alexa Tanner, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Delarem Shojaei, Erik Frieling, Hannah Green,, Saud Lingawi, Tarique Benbow, Thomas Smith, William Canero, Zhenyang Xu

**Quorum:** 18 Councillors

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **3:31 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:** Aaron Loewen

**SECONDER:** Nicolas Romualdi

**RESULT:** Carried

### AGENDA ADOPTION

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

**MOVER:** Maria Jose Martinez

**SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen

**RESULT:** Carried



## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**President:** Thank you Madam Speaker. And Happy New Year to everybody and thank you for coming. On behalf of the GSS, UBC, I would like to acknowledge that UBC Vancouver Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded, territory of the Musqueam people. I would also like to acknowledge that you're joining us today from many places near and far and acknowledge the traditional owners and caretakers of those lands.

## INTRODUCTIONS

[Introductions]

## 1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 1.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

- [December 10, 2020](#)

**MOVER:** Jackson Schumacher

**SECONDER:** Jin Wen

**RESULT:** Carried

### 1.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>		<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	
<b>Code and Policy Committee:</b>	December 2, 2020; December 17, 2020	<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	
<b>Elections Committee:</b>		<b>Services Committee:</b>	
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	November 13, 2020; December 11, 2020	<b>AMS Caucus:</b>	
<b>Executive Oversight Committee:</b>		<b>Graduate Council Caucus:</b>	
<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>		<b>Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:</b>	September 30, 2020
<b>All-Chairs Meeting:</b>	November 13, 2020		

**MOVER:** Jackson Schumacher

**SECONDER:** Maria Jose Martinez

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (19):** Adenike Adelakun, Perrin Waldock, Axel Hauduc, Kimani Karangu, Mostafa Hagar, Alireza Kamyabi, Torin McLachlan, Jenny Lee, Sarah Park, Yundi Wang, Bethany Adair, Nevena Rebic, Taryn Scarff, Andrew Zang, Jin Wen, Jackson Schumacher, Aaron Loewen, Maria Jose Martinez, Teesha Luehr



## DISCUSSION

**Gillian:** Hi, this is Gillian, Chair of Human Resources. I submitted minutes on Monday through the online system. I'm not seeing any of the minutes for our meeting tonight that there's a record of this. So I'm wondering if there was maybe a technical glitch.

**Kimani:** Let's check on that one, I'm sure Ben and Victoria are checking on this.

**Jin:** I'd like to also echo Gillian. I also submitted on the form on Teams and not on the link because it said I didn't have permission.

**Speaker:** So there is some technical issues from G&A and HR, therefore, that's why they don't have the minutes on there, but they submitted one. Anything else?

**Nicolas:** For expediency, I move that we separate the question. And we move the question of the minutes of the Human Resources Committee and the Governance and Accountability Committee to the very end of the meeting. So we give time to the staff to find them and upload them so we can look at them.

**Speaker:** I'm not going to add them here in this motion for sure. So are you proposing to add an agenda item at the bottom to approve those minutes?

**Nicolas:** I withdraw, we can vote this item as is and then we can just amend the agenda at the end, that's simpler actually.

**Speaker:** Just be sure that people need time to review them, if everyone is okay they will pass it. I'll be passing what is on the motion right now.

## 2 SEATINGS

### 2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

Name	Department
Adenike Adelakun	Pharmaceutical Sciences
Rachel Phillips	Geography

**MOVER:** Sarah Park

**SECONDER:** Nicolas Romualdi

**RESULT:** Carried

### 2.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

*All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.*

[Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.](#)

**BIRT** the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
AMS Caucus		Representative	1



Graduate Council		Representative	0
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	1
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

**MOVER:** Alireza Kamyabi

**SECONDER:** Marie Jose Martinez

**RESULT:** Carried

## DISCUSSION

**Jackson:** I can motivate briefly for AMS Caucus. The AMS is the general student body that represents undergraduates and graduates at UBC. They run a ton of important services, they own and operate the Nest, in collaboration with the GSS they manage the student health and dental plan, the Sexual Assault Support Center operates out of AMS. They have a hand in a lot of services that really make a difference in the lives of grad students. And the GSS sends representatives to represent graduate student needs. It's a great opportunity to represent grad students.

## 2.3 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

*All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.*

[Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.](#)

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

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External	Bethany Adair	Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	2
Elections	Adenike Adelokun, Charfeddine Khalifa	Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	4
Executive Oversight		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	3
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	2
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		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3

**MOVER:** Jackson Schumacher      **SECONDER:** Alireza Kamyabi      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (24):** Gillian Glass, Aaron Loewen, Torin McLachlan, Nevena Rebic, Teesha Luehr, Ginny Pichler, Alison McClean, Charf Khalifa, Jackson Schumacher, Sarah Park, Yundi Wang, Axel Hauduc, Tayo Olarewaju, Andrew Zang, Bethany Adair, Jin Wen, Kimani Karangu, Mostafa Hagar, Daniel He, Maria Jose Martinez, Taryn Scarff, Jenny Lee, Edgar Liao, Alireza Kamyabi

## DISCUSSION

**Mostafa:** I'd like to motivate for Elections Committee. We had two members graduate, so the committee just consists of me and Taryn at the moment. Basically what we do is we run the elections, and the elections are right around the corner. It's a lot of work, but we need one person to help approve all the campaigns material stuff, and I'll be talking about that later today. Also we need help arranging events to get people engaged with the election. So I would really appreciate it if especially the two new counsellors, if one of you would like to give us a hand, you would get your hands dirty right away, which is great. I'll nominate someone at random, Adenike?

**Speaker:** Do you accept?

**Adenike:** Yes I accept, the one for approving election materials, I'm interested in that.

**Charf:** I wanted to join the Elections committee as well.

**Bethany:** I'd like to nominate myself for the AcEx Committee.

## 3 MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 3.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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

**BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in January 2022:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
<a href="#">Experimental Medicine Graduate Student Society</a>	James Wong
<a href="#">Anthropology Graduate Students Association</a>	Kara Holzer



**MOVER:** VP Students

**SECONDER:** Andrew Zang

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (25):** Younus Ahmed (Anthropology), Alison McClean, Andrew Zang, Nicolas Romualdi, Yundi Wang, Julia Burnham, Nevena Rebic, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Teesha Luehr, Jin Wen, Adenike Adelakun, Axel Hauduc, Torin McLachlan, Jackson Schumacher, Gillian Glass, Ginny Pichler, Maria Jose Martinez, Bethany Adair, Taryn Scarff, Mostafa Hagar, Daniel He, Edgar Liao, Perrin Waldock, Sarah Park, Aaron Loewen; **ABSTAIN (1):** Jenny Lee

## 3.2 APPROVAL TO CALL FOR REFERENDUM 2021

**WHEREAS** several bylaw and policy amendments to be presented at an upcoming referendum/AGM were passed at the December 2020 Council, and

**WHEREAS** these proposed amendments have direct impact on the upcoming GSS general elections which are likely to occur before an AGM is scheduled, and

**WHEREAS** the passing of these motions to referendum can be considered as having the intention to hold a referendum, and

**WHEREAS** Bylaw 6.1.4 states that "A referendum shall be conducted for at least twenty (20) hours and shall begin not less than fourteen (14) days and not more than forty (40) days after the passing of a resolution", and

**WHEREAS** a motion to authorise the call for a referendum has not yet been presented to Council, and

**WHEREAS** given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has required a great deal of flexibility in how business is conducted

**BIRT** Council approves that the GSS President call a referendum during the GSS 2021 Elections period.

**MOVER:** Kimani Karangu

**SECONDER:** Alireza Kamyabi

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (21):** Andrew Zang, Julia Burnham, Torin McLachlan, Nevena Rebic, Alison McClean, Axel Hauduc, Taryn Scarff, Adenike Adelakun, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Yundi Wang, Perrin Waldock, Teesha Luehr, Jenny Lee, Gillian Glass, Jin Wen, Jackson Schumacher, Maria Jose Martinez, Aaron Loewen, Edgar Liao, Mostafa Hagar, Daniel He ; **ABSTAIN (1):** Kimani Karangu

## DISCUSSION

**Nicolas:** Move to amend to strike "during the GSS..." from the motion. I believe the intention is to have the referendum before the elections and actually our bylaws already dictate the time period for running the referendum. According to Bylaw 6.1.4, a referendum shall be conducted for at least 20 hours and shall be not less than 14 days and not more than 40 days after the passing of a resolution or the receipt of the petition in accordance with Bylaw 6.1.2 which means that the timeframe for running the referendum after we approve the call is already dictated by the bylaws and we cannot vote on this in Council. So that part of the motion is irrelevant.

**Kimani:** While I understand the notion of striking out that phrase, I think the understanding is that after this meeting, we may want to start the process of election because voting and electing official officers is not an event it's a process, which will begin tomorrow or the day after with nominations. So all this period would be considered as electioneering period, with nominations and everything coming to an end when we have new officers in place. So I think it was in



order to have this phrase in there, so that at least it is within this period of time. Because we shall have the election period that involves voting period, which is different from-

**Speaker:** So are you saying that this is changing the intent because you intended for the referendum to coincide with the election period and nothing else?

**Kimani:** I'm saying this because hopefully tomorrow we're going to open the nominations.

**Speaker:** Just so you understand that striking this out doesn't mean that you can't do the same thing, but it just allows you to call this referendum any other time other than a election period.

**Kimani:** I yield, let's strike it out.

**Speaker:** Let me explain what's going on. Striking out "during the GSS 2021 election period" will not restrict a timing for when the referendum will be called. It can be called during the election period, or it could be called some other time. And now we are voting to get rid of that sentence from the motion.

**Nicolas:** Sorry to talk on this after motivating, it's already dictated by the bylaws, so we don't even need to talk about this after looking at the bylaws.

**Speaker:** This still gives the president to call the referendum at the time he chooses. If you vote in favour, this part will be gone. If you vote against, it will stay.

**MOVER:** Nicolas Romualdi

**SECONDER:** Sarah Park

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (24):** Julia Burnham, Adenike Adelakun, Charf Khalifa, Daniel He, Taryn Scarff, Perrin Waldock, Axel Hauduc, Andrew Zang, Alison McClean, Torin McLachlan, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Yundi Wang, Ginny Pichler, Teesha Luehr, Aaron Loewen, Sarah Park, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Gillian Glass, Mostafa Hagar, Bethany Adair, Maria Jose Martinez, Edgar Liao, Nicolas Romualdi

**Speaker:** Back to the main motion, anyone else want to speak on this motion? Hearing no more discussion, I'll send for a vote.

### 3.3 CALL FOR REFERENDUM 2021

**WHEREAS** the Council has approved the President to call a referendum for the purpose of passing amendments from previously attempted AGM in 2020,

**BIRT** the President calls for a referendum during the GSS 2021 Elections period, with the content found in the supporting document "[GSS Referendum 2021](#)".

**MOVER:** Kimani Karangu

**SECONDER:** Alireza Kamyabi

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (19):** Jin Wen, Perrin Waldock, Alison McClean, Julia Burnham, Taryn Scarff, Bethany Adair, Andrew Zang, Yundi Wang, Nevena Rebic, Ginny Pichler, Adenike Adelakun, Teesha Luehr, Alireza Kamyabi, Aaron Loewen, Mostafa Hagar, Edgar Liao, Jenny Lee, Jackson Schumacher, Maria Jose Martinez



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## DISCUSSION

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**Nicolas:** I'm going to propose an amendment to strike "during the GSS 2021 election period" from the motion.

**Speaker:** Would you like to speak on this?

**Nicolas:** Same argument as previous motion.

**Speaker:** If I'm hearing none, I'll ask for any objections.

**MOVER:** Nicolas Romualdi

**SECONDER:** Alireza Kamyabi

**RESULT:** Carried (none opposed)

**Speaker:** Back to the main motion. Anyone want to motivate?

**Kimani:** Thank you so much Madam Speaker, and those who are here when we tried to vote this online and didn't get enough votes. All these issues were supposed to be implemented in last year's AGM but due to the situation we are currently in, we're not able to do much. So members, with all this said and done, there are things that are holding us back from performing our duties as elected officers and other issues conflicting with what you do, and some of those issues are being addressed by these matters in the upcoming referendum. In this situation, I wish that we all vote in favour and you all become ambassadors of this and mobilize your constituencies to voting on these matters in this referendum. Please let them take time to understand all of them and vote in favour.

**Speaker:** Thank you. I want to start recognizing how best to motivate, so when you speak, say you're in favour. You're asking people to vote for something and that is a really great structure. Thank you Kimani.

**Nicolas:** I'd like to focus on the more technical aspect of this motion, which refers to bylaw 6.1.3: "Council shall ensure that the wording of the referendum is clear and unambiguous, capable of being answered yes or no, and, if called by petition, that the text accurately reflects the intent of the petition." And 6.1.5 that states that "responsibility for proper conduct of referenda shall lie with Council." It's Council that's approving the full text in that motion, so pay attention to what we wrote there, because we're all sending this to the membership collectively.

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## 3.4 BOOKING POLICY 10.3.2 REVISION

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**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** HF Committee has the mandate to annually review the Society Booking Policy and ensure that it is updated. As a part of this exercise and HF's SMART goals for this year, HF wants to update the Society Booking Policy to reflect the necessary changes in the Bookings section of the Policy Manual.

**Proposed Objective:** To approve the submitted policy revision.

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form](#) – [Booking Policy 10.3.2.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** House-Finance Committee is mandated by their terms of reference to review the Society Booking Policy annually (Policy 8.4.1.a.vii), and





**WHEREAS** the current booking policy has been determined to be outdated,  
**BIRT** Policy 10.3.2 be amended as stated in the attached Policy Revision Form.

**MOVER:** CPC

**SECONDER:** Sarah Park

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (23):** Torin McLachlan, Bethany Adair, Andrew Zang, Perrin Waldock, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Gillian Glass, Jackson Schumacher, Jin Wen, Aaron Loewen, Axel Hauduc, Alison McClean, Taryn Scarff, Nevena Rebic, Jenny Lee, Ginny Pichler, Yundi Wang, Julia Burnham, Adenike Adelakun, Sarah Park, Maria Jose Martinez, Mostafa Hagar, Teesha Luehr, Edgar Liao

## DISCUSSION

**Aaron:** Brief overview, changes are being made to bookings policy, specifically 10.3.2 in the Policy Manual, with plenty of consultation from HF but also the previous Events Manager, FEOO, previous and current president. Questions can be directed to chair of HF.

**Devarsh:** I'd like to motivate and give a brief update. The policy has not been updated for almost seven years or so. So as a part of that, we had added the booking policy update to one of the SMART goals for House Finance Committee for the last year. This is the last step to get it approved by Council. In terms of the changes that are being made, basically adding more details and more specific timelines to the different aspects of the booking. I know that currently there's not a lot of bookings going on right now but once we start I think this will be very helpful. I encourage everyone to vote in favour, thank you.

## 3.5 ELECTIONS POLICY REVISIONS: 12.2-12.10, APPENDICES VI-XIV

**Groups Responsible:** Elections Committee, Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** Elections Committee has developed a new protocol for addressing complaints as well as screening campaigning materials prior to release.

**Proposed Objective:** To present to Council regarding the policy updates and to approve the submitted policy revision motion.

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Elections Policy Revisions Summary.pptx](#), [Policy Revision Form – Elections Policy Updates.pdf](#), [Appendix VI - Elections Complaints and Appeals Form.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** Previous elections have had issues around campaigning materials and elections complaints, and

**WHEREAS** the current policies involving campaigning materials and complaints is insufficient,

**BIRT** policy changes listed in the attached Policy Revision Form regarding complaints and campaigning materials be implemented.

**MOVER:** CPC

**SECONDER:** Alireza Kamyabi

**RESULT:** Carried



**FOR (15):** Bethany Adair, Perrin Waldock, Ginny Pichler, Kimani Karangu, Gillian Glass, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Axel Hauduc, Yundi Wang, Aaron Loewen, Alireza Kamyabi, Jenny Lee, Andrew Zang, Torin McLachlan, Edgar Liao, Maria Jose Martinez ; **ABSTAIN (3):** Taryn Scarff, Nicolas Romualdi, Mostafa Hagar

## DISCUSSION

**Speaker:** Suggestion from mover to have Mostafa to speak on this, maximum 20 minutes.

**Mostafa:** I'll present on this.

**Alireza:** Thank you, I'd like to ask what decision-making process for the proposed EPP committee would be. Would decisions need to be made unanimously or via a majority vote since as a four person team it would make a difference? And same goes for G&A for the appeals process.

**Mostafa:** We didn't really specify that, it could get sticky for cases where it's not a clear situation. I suppose in that case we also have a clause where you can get the rest of the elections committee to vote on it. Right now what this would essentially do is split the Elections Committee. So a small group of it would deal with the rule stuff, and then the other group should be doing engagement things. But I guess maybe in the case where, you know, a clear decision can't be made, then the whole committee could be involved. As for G&A we haven't added any specific policies for that.

**Speaker:** If there is no specific rules already written, it goes to default Robert's Rules that majority wins, and in your own panel meeting, the group can pass a motion where you can decide "this decision will be made in a certain matter". Just telling you guys the possible rules.

**Julia:** Thank you, I just wanted to say how impressive the reform for all these elections revisions and policy. It's excellent to see how much work went into this and making sure we're in line with best practices across campus. Thank you to you and the committee. My question might be out of your scope and agency, but with this elections committee, want to highlight from experiences in the AMS that the approval of materials tends to be a process that is quite delayed, and it takes a lot of staff to actually action this and to approve it in a timely manner that the elections period requires. So I was wondering if the availability of honoraria for this Elections Committee was a possibility, if that's something that you've explored, or if any of the executives or finance committee maybe could jump in?

**Mostafa:** That is something we want to do down the line, but I think that it stands to reason that it'll be way less work at the GSS because we represent a smaller student body. But that is the direction we want to go with this. Have it be so that the panel gets an honorarium for all the work they have to do.

**Alireza:** I'd like to point out that exactly what was brought up, the committee can form a rule in its first meeting. And I would recommend that the decision making be done by a majority vote and not unanimous decision, just because of the matter of the contentious material that will come to the committee., might be contentious and not always clear.

**Nicolas:** For transparency sake, I recommend you pass a motion on how the election will work before the elections start, make sure it's set up before any issues are brought to the committee for maximum level of transparency.

**Mostafa:** Within the committee or to the Council?

**Speaker:** Recommendation is yes, committee should be able to set its own rules.



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## 3.6 REVISED 2020/21 BUDGET

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**Group responsible:** FEEO/ House Finance Committee

**Presentation time:** 15 minutes

**Presentation description:** Revised 2020/21 Budget

**Proposed objective:** Presentation and adoption

**Relevant materials:** [Revised 2020-21 Budget.pptx](#)

**WHEREAS** a tentative 2020/2021 budget was adopted by GSS Council on 21 May 2020 for the 2020/21 fiscal year of the Society that commenced on the 1st of June 2020; and

**WHEREAS** the 2020/21 fiscal year is highly uncertain due to COVID-19 and upon further consideration the General Manager and House Finance Committee propose a revised budget for 2020/21 fiscal year.

**BIRT** the GSS Council approves and adopts the revised 2020/2021 budget as presented.

**MOVER:** Tayo Olarewaju

**SECONDER:** Alireza Kamyabi

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (19):** Alison McClean, Kimani Karangu, Yundi Wang, Jackson Schumacher, Andrew Zang, Adenike Adelakun, Ginny Pichler, Teesha Luehr, Axel Hauduc, Maria Jose Martinez, Torin McLachlan, Mostafa Hagar, Julia Burnham, Taryn Scarff, Alireza Kamyabi, Bethany Adair, Aaron Loewen, Jenny Lee, Edgar Liao

## DISCUSSION

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**Jackson:** Thanks for the presentation. If I'm understanding this right, we lost some revenue, and all the execs tightened their belts, but then we went 20k further. What was the motivation for that, just to protect us in case there were unforeseen decreases in revenue?

**Tayo:** I think there were a couple motivations. At the committee level the driving force was so that it would give the incoming execs a more balanced view of where the society is and what it expects as a result of the pandemic. By the time these execs did their budget, it's based on previous years' activities and the budgets they received from their predecessors. A driving factor was to give a more realistic view of expenses and revenues as a result of the pandemic and it would also have an effect on the subsequent execs as we're about to have elections. I think the chair of HF also wants to contribute to this.

**Devarsh:** Thank you. Just to address your question, why we went above and beyond with the 20k additional savings, the reason was to have a buffer. The motivation to have a realistic budget for the incoming executives is very true. In every monthly audit that we conduct for the budget, one of the consistent challenges we've seen, the revenue items from bookings and associated line items are completely empty. As well as some of the items they event costs are empty. So even for us to conduct the audit, operationally it is becoming difficult because few of the line items just do not make sense in this current situation. In order to set a precedent for the incoming execs and give them a better idea of how to prepare a budget, we want to propose this new budget. We also feel we have a long history of budget which can represent scenarios where everything is normal. If we pass this budget, it can represent that when things are virtual or if we are working under constrained situations, how the budget should be built.



**Kimani:** I wanted to maybe clarify something on the second slide. I see originally we had a budget of 274k. And that one has been slashed down to 248k. But we still have a negative variance. Maybe you can maybe elaborate a little bit on that.

**Tayo:** It's the difference between the original and the revised budget. So the second number, the original projection is higher than revised. The drivers for that, we have reduction in rental costs, we have reduction in revenues. Even though we have a decrease in costs, we have an increase in personnel expenditure in staff. To calculate the variance, it's the revised minus the original. We calculate it as a negative. On my initial slide, slide four, I realized that I actually mixed the numbers up, right. So 787 is the initial budget 787k, while the revised is 771k. So that was why I stumbled as I was going through that slide. So sorry, my mistake. I just thought I should mention that correction for subsequent Councils.

**Alireza:** I had a question and comment. For council's records, I'd like to ask Tayo to resubmit a powerpoint with the correct numbers. And a follow up on Kimani's question on the variance, I understand that he said the variance is calculated from revision minus original budget, that's not the case for most of the other ones. The other ones are original minus budget revision. I might be misunderstanding something here, but clarification would be helpful.

**Tayo:** I think it would be helpful to realize that in accounting parlance, when we see brackets that means minus, right. On slide 2 when we see on the 2021 the President, where we see -51,780, that means we expect the President will spend that money, that's an expense account. On the next column where we see -66,591, that's also minus, President is spending that. So if we calculate the variance as 2020 budget revision minus 2020 original budget, that's minus, that's -51,780. That's 51,780 plus 66,591.

**Nicolas:** If I can offer an alternative explanation for non-accountants, if from original to revised there's an increase in expenses, it's a negative. That column is providing less than before. There's a decrease in expenses so the variance is positive. That's how it should be read and it's maybe easier explained than math.

**Kimani:** The formula should be put into a different slide from the others because it's confusing our members. The formula used here is different from the others. Thank you for this, it looks so good in the bank. Our auditor mentioned our finances are unusually clean, so we are in good hands.

## 4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT FEEDBACK SURVEY

**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 received feedback from our survey and will be sharing the results with Council as we move forward to finalize the Code of Conduct.

**Proposed Objective:** To present the results of the Code of Conduct Feedback Survey.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [GSS Code of Conduct Two Presentation.pptx](#)

### 4.2 DECEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**Group responsible:** Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

**Presentation time:** 10 minutes



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**Presentation description:** December 2020 GSS Financial Overview

**Proposed objective:** Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures

**Relevant materials:** [December 2020 Financial presentation.pptx](#)

## 4.3 ACCESSIBILITY DEVICES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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**Responsible:** VP UAA

**Description:** Inform Council on the established collaboration to provide graduate students with accessibility devices and plans to support the broader community through the advocacy office.

**Objective:** Update Council.

**Supporting docs:** [Accessibility Devices.pptx](#)

## DISCUSSION

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**Jackson:** First off this is amazing, I'd like to thank the VP for his work on this. The question I have is, if the device malfunctions or breaks or the individual has other issues, is there ongoing technical support that's offered to recipients?

**Nicolas:** Very pertinent question. Currently the project has continued funding until March 31 and technical support would continue until that date. Part of the partnership and to help this research project expand is that hopefully this assists extra funding from the federal government to extend the project and that would carry the implication of extended technical support. I understand that only 2 months of technical support this is somewhat underwhelming, but we hope and this is where the partnership comes in, the expansion of the product into the graduate level expands the function and technical support for all users for an extended period of time.

**Maria:** Thank you for your work, there's so much to do and I'm grateful that they're starting with this technical device. I remember the work that has been going on, all the interviews and focus groups that have been going on with the disability students with the GSS in general. Was wondering if you could tell us a little more, do you know if there's going to be something else coming up following up on all those focus groups and research groups besides this? I'm really appreciative of this but there's so much to do. Just want to know where it's going.

**Nicolas:** What will happen is there's currently a report being drafted, there's been substantial research going into students with disabilities. This is being put together in a report that at this stage is fundamentally descriptive, just signaling of what the issues that these students experience are. Now with that in hand, the next step is to develop solutions for each one of these issues. One solution is what I am presenting, another issue that emerged is funding, which is something we've been addressing anyway. There's another number of issues that we'll be communicating once the report is finalized. This is by no means the end of it, there's a fully fledged advocacy platform that we're developing. And there's four people working on this. One of our advocacy coordinators plus three students that have been assigned to the project through a collaboration, plus myself, so five, and six, if we count the contributions that the Communications Manager makes, which are by no means negligible. So, this is going to take some time, because there's a difference between understanding what the issues are and then the next step is figure out what exactly is the best avenue to address this issue and create an equitable landscape? That's exactly what we're trying to figure out now. And my objective is to create that platform as I laid out in my goals and hand this over to the next Vice-President Academic and External to address those issues.



**Sarah:** Two questions. First one, are these gonna be distributed on a first-come, first-served kind of order based on who fills out whatever registration signup form. And then the second question is, do they have it forever? Or do they have to return it? And if so, when do they have to return it?

**Nicolas:** It is first-come, first-served basis for qualifying students, and there's no limitation, they keep the device forever. We hope that this type of partnership with organizations such as NetCle, that have expertise in addressing issues of people with disabilities, not only expands this project, but allows for a furthering of other joint projects that can address other types of needs. As we grow these partnerships, opens up the opportunity for more resources to be available to help grad students. Really hoping that anybody who knows someone who could use this, get them involved, that would help. The more people we help, the more we can help in the future.

**Kimani:** Thank you so much Nicolas. I also want to echo your sentiments as our ambassadors are in here. It would go a long way for us to advocate and encourage more students, especially students with disabilities in our different departments to come together, form an affiliate organization, so that at least they can collectively maybe benefit from this and other opportunities that may come our way.

## 5 MATTERS TO NOTE

### DISCUSSION

**Jin:** As you know we put out a call for SMART goals, please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

#### 5.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- W2021 Flow Yoga, Boot Camp, Latin Funk, French programs: February - April
- Photo Contest: January 18 – February 15
- Rainbow Speed Friending vol. 2: February 11
- Local Mountains Subsidy Program: February 15 – March 15
- Virtual Games: Among Us: February 17
- Virtual Games: Among Us (Councillor Edition!): February 19

#### 5.2 EXECUTIVES

##### 5.2.1 President

- Organized for a vote to call for a referendum. 15 positive votes registered, we needed 16 votes to qualify, this vote will be officially called in the Jan council meeting. A big thank you to those that took time to vote.
- Executive meeting held: Key areas of focus for the remaining time in office discussed.
- Invited to deliver a speech during the Jan 2021 intake orientation.
- Held a discussion meeting with VP Students and Student Strategic Plan committee.
- Upcoming event proposals: Black History Month Event, and GSS Cultural week
- Together with the VPUAA held a meeting aimed at supporting students with disabilities.
- Held first 2021 staff meeting.
- The search for CSHO on going.
- Attended the Organizational Coaching Project (OCP) orientation Webinar.



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- Held a GSS Executive Team & Santa Ono meeting.
  - Attended the Strategic Plan Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting.

## 5.2.2 FEOO

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- Engaged in disbursing funds to relevant departments.
- Engaged in meetings with the General Manager, Accountant and VP External on GSS financial matters.
- Engaged in discussions with EOC on reviewing executive work hours and remuneration.

## 5.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

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- **Academic Integrity Working Group:** Through the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology (CTLT) the university has started a process to analyze the possibility of taking a more proactive approach to academic integrity, instead of a purely punitive one. This has been a consistent request in exchanges with the University, as the lack of a proactive educational approach creates an environment of higher risk for students who may not enter the University fully equipped to navigate the necessary academic integrity standards. The GSS has two seats in the group, one for the VP UAA and one for a designated Graduate Student.
- **Food Insecurity:** While the AMS food bank is best positioned to expand the collaboration with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, the GSS continued to work with the Food Security Initiative and additional supports. The "Share Meal" program has been developed and will be rolled out soon as additional support.
- **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 has now been approved and a student team has been assigned to it.
  - The student team will be provided with a finalized version of a report largely informed by Sara Izadi's research (VP UAA 2018/19) who carried on further investigations since the end of her term and has now supplied the results to the GSS for advocacy.
  - On immediate actions, refer to the presentation in items for discussion.
- **Furthering Research in Students with Dependents:** While initial findings were sufficient to guide a number of immediate actions, the need for a comprehensive study into the needs of students with dependents is clear. A SEEDS research proposal has been developed by one of our advocacy coordinators and brought to a SEEDS project coordinator for this purpose. The proposal has been well received and we expect to have this project in place in the current term as well.

## 5.2.4 VP External

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- **AMS/GSS Lobby Week– Jan 18-22:** In a collaborative effort, the GSS and AMS have scheduled meetings with MLAs to discuss student priorities ahead of the provincial budgeting period. Discussions with MLA's will cover 4 topics: housing affordability for students, provincial funding for post-secondary education, support for indigenous students and graduate student financial aid [which will specifically include expanding the BC Graduate Scholarship and implementing needs-based grants for graduate education by expanding eligibility of the BC Access Grant].
- **Graduate Education & Public Good Report:** Continuing our work in writing and preparing the 'Graduate Education and Public Good Report.'



- **Finalizing GSSBC MOU:** We are working hard on finalizing the MOU to present to the four GSS Board of Directors in March – The MOU would make the formation of Graduate Student Societies of British Columbia official and include provisions on mandate, annual fee, leadership and more.
- **GSSBC Letter to Ministry of Advanced Education:** GSSBC has prepared a letter outlining avenues for the province to support graduate education in the coming years.
- **UTILE Housing Initiative:** Continuing our work with AMS to coordinate the upcoming housing advocacy survey.
- **Joint Letter from U15 GSS:** UBC-GSS is leading efforts in sending a joint letter from U15 GSS's to the federal government outlining avenues to support graduate students and graduate education during and after COVID-19 pandemic. We are planning for a general meeting of U15 GSS's in early February.
- **GSS Privacy Policy:** The first draft of the revised and revamped GSS Privacy Policy is finished and under review. We will be working on a Privacy guideline that would outline the practical steps and new practices that are necessary to implementing the new GSS Privacy Policy.
- **#StudentsForLoujain Campaign:** In a disappointing move and a setback for women's rights and equality, Loujain was charged and convicted in Saudi Arabia's Special Criminal Court on December 28, 2020. Her sentence includes:
  - 5 years and 8 months total jailtime (the court suspended two years and 10 months of her sentence on the condition that she commits "no crimes" in the next 3 years, and backdated the start of her jail term to May 2018, meaning she only has few months to serve and may be released in early 2021)
  - 3-year probation
  - 5-year travel ban
- Our #StudentsForLoujain campaign received widespread media coverage, including [Globe and Mail](#) and [an article](#) and [a video segment](#) in the evening edition of CTV News. We were also reached out to by NBC News but were not able to provide comments in time for publication. The campaign will continue until Loujain's release. We are currently working on a revised letter to Global Affairs Canada. You can read more [here](#) and [here](#).
- **ABCS Fee ReStructuring:** We are working and assisting the ABCS in fee re-structuring efforts and new bylaws.
- **GSS Council Restructuring:** Working with G&A to finalize list of academic units and the recalculation of departmental representatives based on the sizes of the academic units. Once the list is finalized, VP Students will begin reaching out to academic units with missing representatives to ensure we have adequate and democratic representation in GSS council in accordance with the GSS bylaws.
- **ABCS Lobby Days:** We are preparing briefs and meetings for ABCS Lobby Days in February reading break.

## 5.2.5 VP Students

- None submitted

## 5.3 COMMITTEES

### 5.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- None submitted





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## 5.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- Worked with Elections Committee to update the policies around complaints and campaign materials, Worked with HF Committee to update the booking policy. Held a meeting with Caucus chairs to begin the process to update the Caucus policies. CPC is working through the survey data regarding the Code of Conduct and will have a new version of the Code of Conduct based on the survey results and comments.

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## 5.3.3 Elections Committee

- Finalized proposal for Elections policy revisions and submitted motion to Council. Worked out timeline for the 2021 election, and started preparing.

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## 5.3.4 Executive Committee

- None submitted

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## 5.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- None submitted

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## 5.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- None submitted

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## 5.3.7 House Finance Committee

- HF Committee approved a payment of \$579.65 for fire suppression testing required by the City of Vancouver at Koerner's Pub. (Approved during Dec 3, 2020, HF Committee Meeting. Meeting minutes will be pending approval and will be submitted to Feb Council).
- The policy update form for GSS's Room Booking Policy is submitted to this (Jan) Council meeting. The booking policy update aims to improve outdated policies.
- HF Committee is exploring the use of redeemable food vouchers for attendees of all GSS related Council and Committee meetings. The food vouchers will be provided to the attendees present during the meeting. The amount of the voucher and the platform for disbursement are being discussed.

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## 5.3.8 Human Resources

- None submitted

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## 5.3.9 Services Committee

- None submitted

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## 5.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- Hi Council! Not a ton to update you on as we only met once in December. We are working to schedule our last SWOT analysis meetings and formed working groups to start compiling our findings into a report. Please email [sptcom@gss.ubc.ca](mailto:sptcom@gss.ubc.ca) if you have any comments/questions/concerns.



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## 5.3.11 AMS Caucus

- AMS council met last week. Council banned lawn signs in the upcoming AMS election and discussed rerouting money from funds such as the AMS childcare bursary to supplement the AMS deficit (the latter of which AMS caucus members opposed). If you have any comments/questions/concerns email me (Jackson) at [schumacher@psych.ubc.ca](mailto:schumacher@psych.ubc.ca)

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## 5.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

- The Caucus has been developing SMART goals for the 2021 cycle. Three areas have been identified: Review of existing awards and eligibility criteria, embedding wellbeing in curriculum design, feasibility of the expansion of part time graduate programs. The Caucus expects to finalize these goals for review by the G&A Committee in the indicated timeline.

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## 5.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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### 5.4.1 Senators:

- None submitted

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### 5.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- The next BoG cycle isn't until February: committees Feb 3rd and 4th, and full Board on Feb 16th. Agendas and materials will be online at <https://bog.ubc.ca/meeting-agenda-minutes/> closer to the date. As always, Max and I are happy to chat ([jeanie.malone@ubc.ca](mailto:jeanie.malone@ubc.ca) and [max.holmes@ubc.ca](mailto:max.holmes@ubc.ca)) if you ever have any questions or concerns related to the Board.
- And as elections are soon, please feel free to reach out to me ([jeanie.malone@ubc.ca](mailto:jeanie.malone@ubc.ca)) if you are interested in discussing the role of BoG!

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## 6 NOTICES

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### 6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, February 18th at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Online Via Teams

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### 6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Maryam Tayyab was unseated as Representative from AMS Council Caucus.
- Mark Pampuch was unseated as Departmental Representative from Botany.
- Mark Pampuch was unseated as Councillor from Elections Committee.
- Abdullah Hassan was unseated as Departmental Representative from Civil Engineering.
- Abdullah Hassan was unseated as Councillor from Elections Committee.
- Abdullah Hassan was unseated as Councillor from Executive Oversight Committee.
- Arwa Nemir was unseated as Departmental Representative from Pharmaceutical Sciences.
- Arwa Nemir was unseated as Councillor from Academic & External Affairs Committee.



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- Abdul Ahad Ahmadi was unseated as Departmental Representative from Civil Engineering.
  - Abdul Ahad Ahmadi was unseated as Councillor from Academic & External Affairs Committee.
  - Abdul Ahad Ahmadi was unseated as Councillor from Elections Committee.
  - Abdul Ahad Ahmadi was unseated as Councillor from Executive Oversight Committee.

## 7 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **7:45 pm**.

**MOVER:** Kimani Karangu

**SECONDER:** Jin Wen

**RESULT:** Carried (none opposed)