



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Aaron Loewen, Aditi Nagaraj Nallan, Alejandra Botia, Andrew Zang, Anurag Krishna, Ashni Gill, Axel Hauduc, Charfeddine Khalifa, Daniel He, Hannah Green, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Julia Burnham, Kimani Karangu, Kira Vandermeulen, Leila Matte-Kaci, Lisa White, Louise Harding, Mohamed Kamel, Perrin Waldock, Rachel Phillips, Sam Kenston, Sandeep Gill, Sofie McComb, Taryn Scarff, Temitayo Olarewaju, Torin McLachlan, William Canero, Yundi Wang; Alireza Kamyabi, Devarsh Bhonde, Linda Yang; Saad Shoaib (AMS VP External)

**Regrets:** Bethany Adair

**Absent:** Adenike Adelakun, Alison McClean, Edgar Liao, Georgia Yee, Ginny Pichler, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Maryam Tayyab, Max Holmes, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Nevena Rebic, Saumadrita Kar, Shiva Zargar, Teesha Luehr, Younus Ahmed

**Quorum:** 18 Councillors

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order **at 5:32 pm.**

### SPECIAL RULES ADOPTION

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

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

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

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

**MOVER:** William Canero

**SECONDER:** Andrew Zang

**RESULT:** Carried

### AGENDA ADOPTION

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

**MOVER:** Andrew Zang

**SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen

**RESULT:** Carried



## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**President:** 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 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

*At the discretion of the President, the following are deemed urgent matters for Council and are presented at the beginning of Council (not exceeding 10mins):*

### 1.1 AMS-GSS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON EXTERNAL ADVOCACY

**Group Responsible:** Academic & External Affairs Committee; Ashni Gill, VP External; Saad Shoaib, AMS VP External

**Description:** Presentation and motion to approve an MOU between the AMS and GSS regarding external advocacy

**Objective:** Approve signing of MOU by President and VP External

**Time:** Presentation - 10 minutes; Motion - 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [AMS-GSS Memorandum of Understanding On External Advocacy.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the VP External Offices of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and the Graduate Society (GSS) have had a historically productive relationship in the past year, and

**WHEREAS** the AMS and GSS both recognize the importance of preserving and retaining the relationship between the two Parties in understanding that UBC undergraduate and graduate students are members of a joint community with common mutual interests, and

**WHEREAS** the AMS has sought to formalize its membership to the Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive University (UCRU) for the past year and UCRU will be considering establishment of a membership fee,

**BIRT** GSS Council authorize the GSS President and Vice-President External to sign the AMS-GSS Memorandum of Understanding On External Advocacy.

**MOVER:** AcEx Chair

**SECONDER:** Hannah Green

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (22):** Jackson Schumacher, Rachel Phillips, Yundi Wang, Daniel He, Axel Hauduc, Perrin Waldock, William Canero, Charfeddine Khalifa, Tayo Olarewaju, Hannah Green, Alejandra Botia, Leila Matte-Kaci, Andrew Zang, Lisa White, Ashni Gill, Jenny Lee, Taryn Scarff, Julia Burnham, Jin Wen, Sofie McComb, Kira Vandermeulen, Aaron Loewen

## DISCUSSION

**Julia:** I think I can give us some dialogue here because I really do want to highlight how significant it is that this is coming into play. I can speak from experience that the AMS has not always been able to work with the GSS



and work to be representing graduate students and it's really exciting that we've been able to build such productive relationships together in the past couple years and to be really moving towards working together and uniting our resources and advocacy powers to benefit all. So I'm really grateful for the work that was poured into this and I'm really excited to have this held up as we navigate external advocacy together, thank you both for your work on this MOU.

**Kimani:** I would like to speak in full support of this motion and the new collaboration that has been founded between the AMS and GSS as Julia has alluded, it's a big day, it's a big step forward. I want to thank Saad and Ali for having pushed this discussion to this end, and he's promised he's going to collaborate further with our new VP External, I'm so happy. Therefore Madam Speaker I want to say thank you and I strongly support and ask everybody here to support this motion, thank you so much.

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

- [April 15, 2021](#)

**MOVER:** William Canero

**SECONDER:** Lisa White

**RESULT:** Carried

### 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>	March 10, 2021; April 14, 2021; April 30, 2021	<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	April 6, 2021; April 22, 2021; May 4, 2021
<b>Code and Policy Committee:</b>	March 31, 2021; April 14, 2021	<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	December 17, 2020; March 5, 2021; April 2, 2021
<b>Elections Committee:</b>		<b>Services Committee:</b>	April 7, 2021
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	April 9, 2021	<b>AMS Caucus:</b>	
<b>Executive Oversight Committee:</b>	March 22, 2021; April 12, 2021	<b>Graduate Council Caucus:</b>	
<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	March 12, 2021; March 25, 2021	<b>Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:</b>	April 21, 2021; May 3, 2021
<b>All-Chairs Meeting:</b>	April 9, 2021		



**MOVER:** Jenny Lee

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried

## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

Name	Department
Louise Harding	School of Population and Public Health
Sandeep Gill	School of Population and Public Health
Aaron Loewen (reseated)	Cell & Developmental Biology
Teesha Luehr (reseated)	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**MOVER:** Tayo Olarewaju

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**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	2
Graduate Council	Yundi Wang	Representative	2
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

**MOVER:** Lisa White

**SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen

**RESULT:** Carried

### 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
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Academic & External		Councillor	0
	Bukola (Mary) Ibitoye, William Yip	Ordinary Member	3
Code & Policy		Councillor	3
	William Yip	Ordinary Member	2
Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	5
Executive Oversight		Councillor	3
	William Yip	Ordinary Member	3
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	1
	William Yip	Ordinary Member	4
House Finance		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	3
Human Resources		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	5
Services		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	1
Strategic Planning ad-hoc		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1

**MOVER:** Kimani Karangu

**SECONDER:** Jin Wen

**RESULT:** Carried

## 3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

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

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Services Committee	Perrin Waldock
Human Resources Committee	

**MOVER:** Andrew Zang

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (19):** Daniel He, Julia Burnham, Jin Wen, Jackson Schumacher, Leila Matte-Kaci, Charfeddine Khalifa, Sofie McComb, Ashni Gill, Kira Vandermeulen, Louise Harding, Hannah Green, Andrew Zang, Jenny Lee, Aaron Loewen, Taryn Scarff, Lisa White, Yundi Wang, Axel Hauduc, Torin McLachlan



## DISCUSSION

**Kimani:** I want to move and motivate for the Human Resources Committee chairperson, it's a very important position. This is a position that determines the persons that we do bring to our fold, great people that work for the society, full-time staff, part-time staff and all that. And also, it has got a lot of great skills set that one learns from it because you learn about, you see the many applications coming through, great ones, and those that need to be, you know, we can learn from them. And it also has an opportunity for connecting and working closely with full-time staff and part-time staff once you're in the position and making sometimes decisions so it is also a very important kind of position to hold, because it has not only the monthly kickback I would call it or the honorarium that they actually get, but also the skills that one learns when they are in that position. They're, invaluable so I would highly, highly recommend that anybody who is willing and wishing to go to that direction and where they know they might be in a position like this one in the future, this is where you can start. And you will never regret. I will nominate William Canero.

**William C.:** Thank you for the nomination, I'm going to pass.

**Kimani:** Its important we fill this position in case we have a position that needs to be filled, it's difficult to proceed. It would be very important that we have someone at the helm there. This person doesn't work alone, there's a team, and I'm behind the post.

**Speaker:** I have been on every committee, and HR is the committee that helped me get jobs because I know what the people hiring me are looking for. If you're worried about getting jobs, this is the committee to be in.

## MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 3.5 RETENTION OF ABSENT COUNCILLORS

**WHEREAS** Bylaw 7.7.2 states that "any member of Council who misses three consecutive meetings without providing a proxy shall, except by special resolution of Council, forfeit their seat without notice", and

**WHEREAS** the President contacted Councillors who were absent from January–March 2021 to notify them of their removal, and

**WHEREAS** the following Councillors expressed interest in remaining on Council for the rest of their term and improving their attendance,

**BIRT** Council, by special resolution, allow these Councillors to remain seated for the remainder of their term:

Rachel Philips (Geography), Torin McLachlan (English)

**MOVER:** President

**SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (22):** William Canero, Hannah Green, Andrew Zang, Perrin Waldock, Leila Matte-Kaci, Kimani Karangu, Daniel He, Charfeddine Khalifa, Kira Vandermeulen, Ashni Gill, Jackson Schumacher, Jin Wen, Alejandra Botia, Lisa White, Yundi Wang, Taryn Scarff, Jenny Lee, Aaron Loewen, Axel Hauduc, Sandeep Gill, Sofie McComb, Julia Burnham; **ABSTAIN (2):** Rachel Philips, Torin McLachlan



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## 3.6 POLICY REVISION FORM

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** A motion to revise the policy revision form (appendix XIV) in the Policy Manual.

**Proposed Objective:** To approve policy changes related to the Policy Revision Form.

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form - Appendix XIV.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the current version of the Policy Revision Form states that policy amendments and additions must be posted on the Society website and emailed 7 days prior to Council, and

**WHEREAS** changes were made in March 2021 that removed this requirement from the Policy Manual (Policy 1.2.1),

**BIRT** the policy amendment from Policy Revision Form – Appendix XIV.pdf be implemented as presented.

**MOVER:** Aaron Loewen

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried

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## 3.7 GSS EVENTS FUND POLICY CHANGES

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** A motion to revise policies in section 9 of the Policy Manual.

**Proposed Objective:** To approve policy changes related to the GSS Events Fund (Policy Manual Section 9).

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form – Policy 9.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the current policies regarding usage of the GSS Events Fund do not cover projects/initiatives outside of events, and

**WHEREAS** the current policies require updating to make the GSS Events Fund more accessible to on- and off-campus Affiliate Organizations as well as to groups who may not have departmental/external funding,

**BIRT** the policy amendments and additions from Policy Revision Form – Policy 9.pdf be implemented as presented.

**MOVER:** Aaron Loewen

**SECONDER:** Kimani Karangu

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (21):** Daniel He, Jenny Lee, Jackson Schumacher, Leila Matte-Kaci, Louise Harding, Andrew Zang, Julia Burnham, Perrin Waldock, Sandeep Gill, Yundi Wang, Taryn Scarff, Charfeddine Khalifa, Alejandra Botia, Lisa White, Kimani Karangu, Torin McLachlan, Ashni Gill, Kira Vandermeulen, Axel Hauduc, William Canero, Sofie McComb; **ABSTAIN (1):** Aaron Loewen

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## DISCUSSION

**Tayo:** I'm wondering if the VP Students can please provide information on steps, on what kind of initiatives like this change is envisioned to allow affiliated organizations to access this fund, and what steps will be taken to



ensure that the requested funds are made use of as the organizations have said, that you have made use of them or they will make use of them?

**Sam:** I just want to provide a little background and maybe other Services members can elaborate more. What happens currently is when affiliated organizations apply, we look at what they will use the money for, and if its for events, we authorize it, and determine how much we give them. But with the new vision of the VP Students, we want to be more inclusive, we don't only want to fund events, we want to fund other activities that may not necessarily be the traditional event we will cover, as well as affiliated organizations that may be off-campus. Currently, we all know due to the pandemic, there are a lot of people seeking to join AO's and they are not on campus. So expanding this is not only the right thing to do, but it means more equity, diversity, and inclusivity.

### 3.8 APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2021/22 BUDGET

**Group Responsible:** Tayo Olarewaju, Finance & Executive Oversight Officer; House Finance Committee

**Description:** Overview of GSS Finances and Proposed 2021/2022 Budget

**Objective:** Adoption of Proposed Budget

**Time:** 15 Minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [GSS Budget 2021-2022-Council-210520.xlsx](#); [GSS Financial Overview and 2021-22 Budget \(Final\).pptx](#)

**WHEREAS** the GSS fiscal year ends on 31st of May every year, and the House Finance Committee has undergone extensive discussions and consultations regarding the 2021/22 budget and is satisfied with the proposed budget,

**BIRT** the GSS Council approves and adopts the 2021/22 budget as presented.

**MOVER:** FEOO

**SECONDER:** Lisa White

**RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (22):** Daniel He, Ashni Gill, Sofie McComb, Perrin Waddock, Leila Matte-Kaci, Kimani Karangu, Julia Burnham, Sandeep Gill, Louise Harding, Axel Hauduc, Rachel Phillips, Torin McLachlan, Hannah Green, Yundi Wang, Lisa White, Aaron Loewen, Charfeddine Khalifa, Taryn Scarff, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, William Canero, Alejandra Botia

### DISCUSSION

**Devarsh:** I would just like to motivate the motion for approval of the budget. So just to echo what Tayo mentioned, went through all of the different departments, and also considered the variances as compared to last year. So if you observe them, in terms of the net contribution, the changes of just \$35. So in the big picture, if we think of expenses minus revenues, at the end as compared to last year, there's not a very significant change. So even though our expenditures might be increasing this year, we will still have a healthy budget, as I see it. So I just like to point that out. And also, thank you Tayo for inviting people to join the House Finance committee. I'd also like to motivate that by saying that, you know, as you can see the net of budget or the additional money that we have in the bank, which is almost \$1 million. So what the House Finance committee does, in addition to approving these budgets and make financial decisions on behalf of the Society, of how to invest this big amount of money into different funds, or mutual funds, stocks, things like those. So if these are the kinds of things that interest you, I would heavily recommend to join our committee.





## 4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 4.1 GSS EXECUTIVES 2021-22 KEY ADVOCACY AREAS

**Responsible:** Kimani Karangu, President

**Description:** Present this year's executives' goals to Council

**Objective:** Update to Council

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Relevant materials:** [2021-22 Exec Goals\\_GSS Council May2021.pptx](#)

### 4.2 SPAHC PRESENTATION

**Responsible:** Axel Hauduc, Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee Chair

**Description:** Presentation on an issue followed by a motion for approval through a vote of Council.

**Time:** 15 minute presentation + 15-30 minutes of discussion (approximate)

**Objective:** Council discusses strategic plan, and Council (hopefully) ratifies new Themes structure

**Relevant materials:** [2021-05-19 Axel Themes Revision Presentation.pptx](#)

**WHEREAS** the Strategic Planning ad hoc Committee believe that the current set of 2022-2026 Strategic Plan themes need revision, and

**WHEREAS** the Strategic Planning ad hoc Committee has proposed a new set of themes better suited the next 5 years given foreseeable COVID-19-related changes and our current progress as a society with regards to Indigenous Reconciliation efforts,

**BIRT** the new themes for the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan shall be "Graduate Student Experience", "A Just Recovery", and "Our Society", and

**BIFRT** these themes be implemented into the plan being developed and scheduled to be brought before Council in draft form in July 2021 by SPAHC.

## DISCUSSION

**Speaker:** I heard you have a proposed motion, Axel? I have added it here. So this motion is basically proposed from the floor, and you're free to do so. Axel already moved it, just need a seconder. Seconded by Kimani. Now if you have questions on the presentation you're free to do so.

**Devarsh:** Thank you Axel for the nice presentation. I just had a comment to make in terms of merging the second and third theme together, especially on the aspect of financial substance ability. So I feel that merging financial or environmental sustainability as a part of "just recovery" might not convey what exactly we are getting at or what exactly the intention behind having financial sustainability in particular is where I'm coming from. So I suspect that due to the COVID-19 impact, we have definitely suffered financially. But I do not see it as a five-year impact that we are going to have, probably in the next year, by the end of next year, we should be back to where we were. So merging the sustainability aspect and theme number two into one might not make sense. In my view, my recommendation would be to rephrase the theme number two as "just recovery" and still have the sustainability as theme number three.



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**Axel:** Thank you Devarsh. That's an interesting point, and one of the things that is always a concern with this entire process is the interplay between trying to write a set of themes that doesn't overly dilute all of the goals into every three but also trying to be specific enough so the themes have significance. For the question of financial sustainability, one thing for us that was a factor in having this merged is that we had a really interesting discussion where we talked about how our finances are intricately linked with environmental sustainability issues, for example what banks we keep our money based on their records on where they run their investment arms for example. So although there is clearly a chasm between financial and environmental sustainability, there are lots of areas where they are interlinked. And although this would be a big thing and could be a big catch all, I think in a lot of ways there's still going to be specific priorities that will address the different aspects of what it covers. Also it gives us the opportunity to recognize that there's so many interrelated issues it's covering, we want to have kind of a holistic view of all the issues within it. I would be happy to let Council speak on this and perhaps we could have a motion to either keep the status quo, change the themes to what I've proposed, or change the themes in the manner Devarsh proposed, where rather than having "equity", we have "a just recovery" as the second theme and we retain "sustainability" as the third theme.

**Jackson:** First, thanks Axel for that extremely clear presentation. I thought Devarsh's comment was interesting and I have one potential fix for that. Because I agree it doesn't make sense to lump in financial sustainability with recovery, one solution is that financial sustainability could be grouped into "Our Society", since we already have issues with human resources and governance, I think it would be a natural fit to move financial sustainability into that theme.

**Devarsh:** I want to second Jackson's idea, I think that would be a much better phrase as compared to passing the motion in the current format, so I would propose amending it so that the subsection of financial sustainability can be part of "our society".

**Jackson:** Just to clarify, what I proposed wouldn't require any amendment, it would be an internal operational thing within the Strat Plan committee, we would put financial priorities and goals within this third theme, but I don't think it would require any amendment.

**Speaker:** Devarsh, do you still want to amend?

**Devarsh:** No I'm good, thank you.

**Lisa:** Thank you for that presentation. I wish I had a little more information at this time, I feel a little uncomfortable with voting on anything without understanding a little bit further. I understand the logic of merging two of your pillars, and I do like Devarsh's idea, I like having the four areas because as you had mentioned, it does potentially raise concerns with watering down even though you have specific strategies and goals. But that is my concern is the watering down. And I look forward to attending one of your meetings to learn more. But I have difficulty with voting on something that has far ranging issues or not. That's all I wanted to say, thanks.

**Tayo:** My first comment would be to echo Devarsh's point and I think the related to Lisa's point which is that it would be helpful to have a brief overview of what each sector or proposed theme is intended to convey. For example, right now I'm not sure what is meant by a just recovery, uncertain about what that means. So probably further information on what that is proposed might be helpful. I'm also wondering about consultations so far. I understand that this committee has been working for a while and thank you for what



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you've done, I also understand there's been transition from different chairs over the past year. So it's great to consider what others have had to do with that, I'm just wondering about current consultation because as the chair of HF noted, and I also have taken part to some extent in the society's finances, just wondering about comments that have been made about currently invested in non-fossil resources, because right now to my knowledge that is not occurring at all. So I think it might be helpful to have further discussions with key players in the society's functions about these proposed changes because as we're all aware this would have significant impact over the next five years. I would advocate for further information, and maybe further consultation especially with those involved in the society's finances.

**Axel:** Thank you Lisa and Tayo for your comments. Both of what you said follows the similar line of more information and more specifics on the content of the different themes. Perhaps one thing that we could do is we could go ahead and maybe next Council instead of having a vote now, perhaps I could have a more detailed presentation about the priorities we've written for each goal or proposed sets of priorities within the different goal structures and hopefully that would give people more information on where we're at and why the themes should change. Ultimately when it comes to the long-term impact of these themes, a lot of it is to signal what the Society deems as important, but the priorities they contain within them are the nitty gritty of what the Society does. The themes are broad classification but whether we adopt the 4 structure or 3 structure, a lot of what we're going to suggest for the next 5 years is probably going to stay the same. It's just about how it's organized and what we're signaling to the Society and our successors from four or five years from now. With that said, perhaps I can come back to Council with a more detailed overview of what the priorities are with what we proposed, we can have more clarity on that subject. On that last point on finance sustainability, it's not a matter of specific divestment of funds, because I don't think as a society we have a huge amount of actions or bonds or stuff like that, it was more proposing mechanisms where we could consider banking partners because some banks do have a different approach to environment sustainability, not necessarily owning stock in X company.

**Lisa:** Thank you, that's terrific, I'm excited about having more information about these pillars. I think just from my perspective, breaking down, disaggregating categories or themes is always better than rolling them up because I think it does represent the society, and I think having that strong message going out there of what is important to the society based on more disaggregated themes is stronger. Even though just at a brief glance, looking at sustainability and EDI, and I'm not saying equity is the term that I would necessarily use, but I do like the second option and the term you have for just recovery. However I think again it's sort of a message that we are sending and I think having it be more succinct is always better than making it more vague. It also can raise questions, I certainly know from an indigenous perspective, it would just be "oh you're just lumping things together" especially since the Truth and Reconciliation and UNDRIP, and certainly what has been placed into law here in BC regarding other declarations. I think having these categories split out sends a strong message that we get it and this is a priority, even from that very high level theme. I think it's really important. I look forward to more information and thank you again for all your hard work. I recognize the level of intensity that this takes and responsibility that you're carrying to undertake the Strat Plan. This is huge. I also know that when you're involved it's hard to see beyond that focus that's intense. Thank you.

**Axel:** Thank you so much Lisa for those insights and yeah the concern of over aggregating vs having more granular themes is definitely something we've gone back and forth on, we really want to get this right as a committee. In that spirit, I don't know what the best way to move forward is, given a few people have spoken but council hasn't really spoken yet, so perhaps I can just leave the motion as is and see what council thinks we



should do, but no matter the outcome I can give more details on every theme at the next Council meeting and that would be more detail on either a 3 theme or a 4 theme structure depending on what Council votes on tonight.

**Julia:** I really appreciate the conversation we've been having tonight, I know we've been particularly quiet tonight so Lisa I appreciate you bringing up these really important points, and I wanted to add into this. In thinking of the sort of path forward here with the intention to have this vote to approve it but also to report back with the flexibility of deciding whether or not these are even the pieces they want to do, if we want to move to this three, and then back to the four, what the piece is; I'm gonna throw this out there, why don't we just table the motion for today, because it seems that there's a good consensus here that we're going to be talking about this again in the committee anyways, this might be a good option, especially since Council hasn't been super engaged right now. And maybe it'd be of benefit if people weren't really going to be participating in the conversation. Maybe we shouldn't also expect that the vote tonight would be indicative of perhaps the serious attention and dialogue that this would be. So that's my contribution here.

**Speaker:** May I take that as a motion to postpone to the next meeting? Seconded by Jackson.

**BIRT** Motion 5.2 is postponed to the next meeting.

**MOVER:** Julia Burnham      **SECONDER:** Jackson Schumacher      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (22):** Teesha Luehr, Torin McLachlan, Sofie McComb, Jenny Lee, Daniel He, Aaron Loewen, William Canero, Julia Burnham, Sandeep Gill, Ashni Gill, Yundi Wang, Charfeddine Khalifa, Louise Harding, Lisa White, Jackson Schumacher, Anurag Krishna, Kira Vandermeulen, Jin Wen, Hannah Green, Axel Hauduc, Perrin Waldock, Taryn Scarff

**Speaker:** This motion will be postponed to the next meeting, so the President is responsible for adding this to the next agenda.

## 5 MATTERS TO NOTE

*Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.*

### 5.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- *None for now – keep an eye out for summer programming!*

### 5.2 EXECUTIVES

#### 5.2.1 President

- **GSS Meetings:** Executive Transition: Robert's Rules with Nicolas, Privacy Training with Jiwan, SVPRO Training; HF Committee Meeting (rescheduled); Executives & Staff meeting (Outgoing/incoming, full and part-time staff); Interview with a candidate for the Archives Assistant position; GSS-G+PS Monthly Meeting-welcoming new executive team as well as wishing the outgoing team the best; Health and Dental GSS Reps; Communications Team Meet; Meeting with G&A, Stratplan, and senators Jackson and



Lisa - Indigenous engagements (Planning workshops for all chairs meeting and later during all council retreat (Reconciliation and decolonizing the mind)

- **UBC Meetings:** Faculty of Science Meeting; Managing Director, Student Affairs search committee (invited to the committee); Director of HR on Remote working; Suitability for our organization; Meeting with AMS VP Finance follow-up on Dental and Health committee issues; Climate Emergency Fund- Notice of Request for Funding Meeting; Tuition Disbursement Planning- Food Security Related Investments at UBC 2020 – 2025 + Tuition Aid for Students; IBPOC discussed with Samantha and Rohene-spaces and programmes;
- **External Meetings:** Canada Graduate Student Alliance - Special General Meeting on MOU; GSSBC Executive Committee Meeting - Transition & farewell; Meeting with Minister Joyce Murry on Federal Govt budget, more (doubled) allocation for Indigenous Nations (post-secondary); BCSS executive meeting; Elections (SFU voted unopposed)
- **AMS/GSS/SUO Joint Meeting: Meet & Greet with the incoming Student Executives**
  - Discussion on affordability plans-defining and its meaning (strategic planning) eg anti-racism
  - Tuition consultation – need to make it more meaningful.
  - Post Covid-19 plans
  - Tuition increment \$ 18M go to tuition, cost of living and Teaching and Learning.
  - Wellness and mental health Equity
  - Self Isolation – one house set aside for this and new one coming up, \$34 subsidies for isolation.
  - UBC SkyTrain public participation
- **GSS & C+CP Connect: Campus Planning Engagement.**
  - Engagement for UBC's Campus + Community Planning Department,
  - Ways to connect with diverse communities of students across campus
  - Find ways to meaningfully involve students and/or partner with them in planning processes
  - Plan a campus that works for everyone.
  - Upcoming large-scale, long-term (30 year) campus planning process launching early in 2022
  - Sharpening approach to engagement & consultations to ensure clear plan or co-design processes that would work for the graduate student community.
- **GSS Executive Team & Santa Ono:** 2021-22 Agenda 1.Affordability and Key areas: students with dependents and disabilities, and other marginalized groups 2. Concrete steps towards dismantling racism and discrimination 3. Funding for master's programs 4. Mental health and well-being 5. Sexualized violence on campus 6. Supervisory support for both students and supervisors in partnership with (SVPRO) 7. Graduate Life Center (next step) programs

## 5.2.2 FEOO

- Involved in 2021/22 Executive Orientation.
- Approved or effected GSS Financial transactions.
- House Finance Committee approved the sum of \$1,000 as one time Bonus payment to 2020/21 executives and recommended a maximum increase of \$6,000 for each executive position going forward. Executive Oversight Committee is in the process of reviewing Bylaw provisions and suggesting changes to executive work hours and remuneration. Further consultation will be undertaken with relevant committees.



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## 5.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

- (none submitted)

## 5.2.4 VP External

- **GSSBC:** Alireza finished his term so Ruben Munoz from SFU was nominated and elected as Chairperson
- **Skytrain advocacy:** discussed what advocacy has currently been done by the AMS such as the SkyTrain video and survey and talked about next steps that will include the GSS
  - Meeting on May 20th prior to council to discuss this further
- **Government Relations team:** next step is to work on advocacy for a cohort tuition model so we need to do a feasibility report
  - Want to put together a survey to ask about funding and expenses for graduate students in order to adequately advocate for needs based grants
- **AMS/GSS and UBC VPS Ainsley Carry:** considering what is affordability and coming up with a clear definition by conducting a survey on students' expectations with affordability and what is needed i.e. in terms of tuition, food and housing
  - Talked about self-isolation and how we need to work on the 3 day hotel mandatory stay to create more affordable options
- **President Santa Ono:** discussed the need for sexual violence and anti-racism mandatory modules for students and employees of UBC and then working on the broader scope of BC provincial standard modules that can be implemented into all post-secondary institutions
  - Work with AMS, SVPRO, ABCS, Students for Consent Culture, GSSBC
- **UPass:** further advocacy on behalf of immunocompromised, financially burdened and differently abled students – we need to survey and ask them about their needs and concerns rather than assuming on behalf of them

## 5.2.5 VP Students

- Liaising with the active Affiliated Organizations to undertake "inter-AOs" event
- Contacting and encouraging expired AOs to renew their membership with GSS
- Collaborating with events manager to organize summer activities for members
- Working with G+PS and other committees to structure the September orientation for new students
- Planning GSS-wide events for the fall

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## 5.3 COMMITTEES

### 5.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- AcEx welcomed new ex-officio members of the Board of Governors (Max Holmes and Georgia Yee) and the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies student senators (Lisa White and Jackson Schumacher)
- Continued discussions of an MOU between the AMS and GSS pertaining to graduate student advocacy and the AMS's membership to UCRU (Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities)



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- Began discussing the possibility of a GSS anti-discrimination policy. Committee has committed itself via motion to investigate this.
  - AcEx welcomed two new executives, Ashni Gill and Alison McClean, and discussed their preliminary priorities for advocacy
  - Discussion of a return-to-campus survey for graduate students

## **5.3.2 Code & Policy Committee**

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- CPC has been working diligently on a full Policy Manual review and noting changes that will be presented to Council at a later date.
- CPC has been developing a new approach to Deputy Chairship within our committees and caucuses.

## **5.3.3 Elections Committee**

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- (none submitted)

## **5.3.4 Executive Committee**

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- Met with President Santa Ono to discuss key advocacy areas for GSS Executives 2021-22

## **5.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee**

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- EOC is having discussions on executive work hours and remuneration.

## **5.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee**

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- Reached out to Elections and Services to get more information about the feasibility of the merger. Met with Lisa White (Grad Senator) and talked about G&A's plans for increasing indigenous engagement ad-hoc committee. Brainstormed ways G&A can support other committees that are missing KPIs

## **5.3.7 House Finance Committee**

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- Approved the reallocation of \$8000 in the VP External's budget from the line items 810 (Dues, License Fees), 840 (Travel/Conference Costs), and 850 (Student Recognition) for development of the videos related to the "Graduate Education for Public Good" report.
- Approved the lease offer from CUPE 2278 for the Foundation Room in the GSS building and further directed the General Manager, FEOO, and the President to complete the contract requirements with CUPE 2278 representatives.
- Approved the budget reallocation to contract the position of Acting Events Manager for a period of 7.5 months from 15 May 2021 to 31 Dec 2021.
- Approved the \$600.66 (+ tax) payment for purchasing the annual subscription of the email marketing platform, MailerLite. The expense should be documented in the budget line item 10-810 – Dues, License Fees.
- Approves a 50% discount on the rent payments made by Koerner's Pub to GSS for the months of June-Aug 2021, given the low sales due to COVID-19 restrictions. Following the UBC directive to return to on-campus activity for Winter Session, Term 1 for 2021, the Koerner's Pub would be charged full rent from Sept 2021 onwards.





- Approved the draft budget for the financial year 2021-22 for GSS.

## 5.3.8 Human Resources

- Two of the minutes documents for this council are outstanding from last month's council. The Committee was involved in hiring two Advocacy Coordinators this month, and the interviews do not have minutes.

## 5.3.9 Services Committee

- Services is currently discussing how best to proceed with a "merging" (reallocating responsibilities) with Elections.

## 5.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- The Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of finalizing its SWOT analysis and writing out Strategic Plan Priorities, Goals, and Proposed Strategies. We are currently running around a month behind schedule but should still be able to make our timeline for submitting our final strategic plan by the August Council Meeting. Recent work has focused on how to incorporate Reconciliation priorities throughout the strategic plan, rather than as an offshoot of general EDI goals.

## 5.3.11 AMS Caucus

- (none submitted)

## 5.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

- (none submitted)

## 5.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### 5.4.1 Senators:

- (none submitted)

### 5.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- (none submitted)

## 6 NOTICES

### 6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, June 17th at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Online Via Teams





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## 6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

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- Alison McClean was unseated as Representative from Grad Council Caucus.
- Alireza Kamyabi was unseated as Councillor from Governance and Accountability Committee.
- Ashni Gill was unseated as Representative from AMS Caucus.
- Gillian Glass was unseated as Chair from Human Resources Committee.
- Gillian Glass was unseated as Councillor from Human Resources Committee.
- Gillian Glass was unseated as Representative from Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies.
- Julia Burnham was unseated as Councillor from Executive Oversight Committee.
- Kaiya Yamada was unseated as Ordinary Member from Academic and External Affairs Committee.
- Saud Lingawi was unseated as Representative from Grad Council Caucus.
- Sean Ritter was unseated as Ordinary Member from Academic and External Affairs Committee.
- Smruthi Ramachandran was unseated as Ordinary Member from Academic and External Affairs Committee.
- Zohreh Sharafianardakani was unseated as Ordinary Member from Human Resources Committee.

## 7 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **7:39 pm**.

**MOVER:** Jin Wen

**SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen

**RESULT:** Carried