



ATTENDANCE

Present: Alejandra Botia, Alexa Tanner, Alireza Kamyabi, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Arash Shadkam, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi (Lauren Germain as proxy), Cristina Rubino (Sarah Park as proxy), Gloria Mellesmoen, Hilal Kina, Jordan Hamden, Joseph Ogbede, Karen Thulasi (Christina Wiesmann as proxy), Katharine Sedivy-Haley, Larissa Peck, Lily Takeuchi, Logan Lorenz, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Nafise Faridi Rad, Negar Ghahramani, Nevena Rebic, Philip Karangu, Sara Hosseinirad, Tarique Benbow, Tayo Olarewaju, Teesha Luehr, Temitope Onifade, Theresa Pauly (Jin Wen as proxy), Timothy Luk, Victoria Gomez, Xuejun Ryan Ji, Yangfan Zhang, Yanuar Philip Wijaya, Yee Fay Lim

Regrets: Andras Szeitz

Absent:

Quorum: 25 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at 5 : 33 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Nicolas

Seconded: Arash

Result: Motion carries

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: As we start our meeting, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Musqueam people.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.



1 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

1.1 ASSOCIATION OF BC STUDENTS (ABCS) PRESENTATION

Group Responsible: VP External Relations

Presentation Time: 10 minutes

Subject Description: An overview of Association of BC Students and membership details.

Relevant Materials: [ABCS Membership Presentation.pptx](#)

Alexa: Is UBC- GSS the only major graduate student society in your association?

ABCS: Yes, it is the only graduate student organization in our association.

Nevena: How do you work with groups that aren't part of your membership?

ABCS: We do have multiple working groups – at the end of the day, the government doesn't want to have an one-stop shop with who they are working with. I work with Christina at the AMS a fair lot, with these "Asks". We do our best to make sure that we are working with potential members, observers, etc., but yes, our members are our primary interactions. It's open-door for us. At the end of the day, the more students that are represented at the table, the better for everyone. When we are asking the government for better policies, funding, it will reflect on everyone, so we do our best to have an open dialogue between any other provincial parties and/or student organizations that may not be represented.

Sarah: You mentioned something about observer schools – which schools are in the observer stage? Are you trying to encourage them to join?

ABCS: Right now, we are working with University of Victoria Student Society. We do our best to bring institutions' executives to events. Royal Roads, SFU, SFU-AMS, SFU-GSS ... We will engage as many institutions as they want to.

Alireza: What are your biggest challenges today, and how can GSS help?

ABCS: One of our biggest challenges right now is the funding and membership growth in the organization. We have a low-string budget. Within the executives and staff, we try to offset our needs for the entirety of the organization. We hope to get grant programs up and running.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- August 15th, 2019

Victoria: Where is the discussion on the election of the VP UAA?

Arash: I appreciate the inclusion of the results, but where are the discussions?



BIRT the approval of the minutes from August 2019 Council be tabled to next Council meeting.

Mover: Nicolas

Seconded: Alireza

Result: Motion carries

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	August 8th, 2019	Human Resources Committee:	August 1st, 2019 August 26th, 2019
Code and Policy Committee:	August 12th, 2019	Services Committee:	June 27th, 2019
Elections Committee:	September 11th, 2019	House Finance Committee:	
Executive Committee:	July 12th, 2019 August 9th, 2019	Governance & Accountability Committee:	August 7th, 2019 August 21st, 2019
Executive Oversight Committee:			

Kate: Item “f)” on the Elections committee meeting minutes where they are talking about the election planning – it is a bit unclear. I am wondering if that can be clarified.

Nicolas: I can explain this – Elections reviewed the role of the Chief Electoral Officer. I think this part was the initial discussion before they sent out the issue to HR.

Mover: Arash

Seconded: Philip

Result: Motion carries



3 SEATINGS

3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Andrew Zang	Materials Engineering
Jungsoo Park	Botany
Judith Valerie Engel	School of Music
Alireza Kamyabi	Neuroscience
Sarah Park	Rehabilitation Science

Mover: Nicolas

Seconded: Nevena

Result: Motion carries

3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

BIRT the following External Representatives Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
AMS Caucus		Representative	0
Graduate Council		Representative	1
Faculty of Arts Council	Judith Valerie Engel	Representative	1
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

Mover: Nicolas

Seconded: Arash

Result: Motion carries

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:



September 2019 Council Minutes

September 19th, 2019 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30 pm

Committee	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External	Xuejun Ryan Ji	Councillor	2
	Sarah Park	Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	4
Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	3
Executive Oversight		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	3
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	1
	Jin Wen	Ordinary Member	4
House Finance	Jungsoo Park	Councillor	3
	Sarah Park	Ordinary Member	2
Human Resources	Devarsh Bhonde	Ordinary Member	2
		Councillor	3
Services	Samuel Adeniji	Ordinary Member	3
	Andrew Zang	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	2

Mover: Sara

Seconder: Alireza

Result: All in favour

3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chairperson Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
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Governance and Accountability	Victoria Gomez	Chair	1
Strategic Planning (Ad-Hoc)	Alireza Kamyabi	Chair	1

Mover: Nicolas

Secunder: Philip

Result: Motion carries

4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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

BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in September 2020:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
UBC Economics Graduate Student Association	Neil Lloyd
UBC Indian Graduate Students Association	Aashish Bhardwaj
Cell Biology and Physiology Graduate Society	Meghan Jelen
UBC Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Society	Kate Sedivy-Haley
Pathology Student Association	Anna-Catharina Wilhelm
Land and Food Systems Graduate Student Council	Lia Dragan

Mover: Nicolas

Secunder: Alireza

Result: For (21): Tarique Benbow, Karen Devendrakumar, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Negar Ghahramani, Sara Hosseinirad, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Logan Lorenz, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Larissa Peck, Nicolas Romualdi, Cristina Rubino, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Yangfan Zhang

Abstained: Theresa Pauly



4.2 GRADUATE WELLBEING NETWORK - AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION FUNDING EXCEPTION

WHEREAS the Graduate Wellbeing network is organizing a graduate student wellbeing symposium at Irving Barber Learning Centre with an expected attendance of over 60 people, and

WHEREAS our current policies disallow disbursing over 400 dollars for Affiliate Organization events outside of Thea Koerner House and the GSS Loft and up to 600 dollars in TKH.

BIRT the GSS Council, by special resolution, suspends the application of Policy 9.4 for the calculation of the Graduate Wellbeing Network Mental Health Symposium.

BIFRT the Event Fund disbursement will be done in accordance with the current event calculator and up to a maximum of 600 dollars.

Alireza: What does the symposium include?

Nicolas: There are panels of discussions between students and also with specialists.

Sarah: On the GSS website in the AO section, it says the Wellbeing Network expired yesterday. Did we renew their affiliation recently?

Nicolas: Ok. I move that we amend the current motion to add another clause.

BIFRT that the membership of the Graduate Wellbeing Network be extended to December 1st, 2019.

Pouya: Why don't we just extend it for one month?

Nicolas: Because they may want to stay as an AO. If so, they will have time to submit the usual AO approval papers.

Arash: Is this motion even legal? Are we in a position to just extend their AO status? Shouldn't they submit an interest to do so?

Victoria: I am wondering if CPC can give me a ruling on this – is this ok with Policy 2.5.3? It says that an application for AO status must include the number of students represented and a resolution passed by the members of the organization.

Kate: Thank you Victoria. The policy manual can be suspended in this case. While the Policy Manual would normally not allow us to do this without an AO application, the bylaws do not prevent us from extending their status. So, I would like to move:



BIFRT that Policy 2.5.2 and Policy 2.5.3 be suspended.

Speaker: We are moving to approve the amended motion.

Mover: Nicolas **Second:** Kate

Result: For (24): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Karen Devendrakumar, Judith Valerie Engel, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Negar Ghahramani, Victoria Gomez, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Logan Lorenz, Timothy Luk, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Nevena Rebic, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Alexa Tanner, Andrew Zang

Speaker: Now we are back to the main motion.

Arash: So, what happens tomorrow for the symposium if we don't pass this?

Nicolas: If they are not an AO tomorrow, they cannot apply for the Event Fund.

Speaker: Are we now ready to vote? Ok.

Motion: Nafise **Second:** Kate

Result: For (26): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Karen Devendrakumar, Judith Valerie Engel, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Sara Hosseinirad, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Philip Karangu, Logan Lorenz, Timothy Luk, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Arash Shadkam, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Andrew Zang

Abstained: Pouya Rezaeinia

4.3 UBC CLIMATE CHANGE STRIKE - SEPTEMBER 27TH

WHEREAS given the scale of the climate change issue, the GSS has been asked to support the UBC Climate Change Strike taking place on September 27th

BITR The society recognizes that our planet is facing a climate emergency and that urgent and decisive action is needed by signing the [open letter](#) and by encouraging any graduate student to join the strike.



Relevant Materials: [UBC Climate Change Strike.pptx](#) and [UBC Climate Strike - Facebook Event page](#)

Sara: I am presenting today about the Friday September 27th UBC Climate Strike. GSS has been asked to sign this open letter. If we agree to sign this letter, we will be asking UBC to – from the letter:

“Reassess divestment of the University’s financial holdings from fossil fuels through an open, transparent and evidence-based process.”

“Expand opportunities, resources, and support for faculty, students and staff to research, learn about and take action on climate change and climate justice within their departments and units.”

“Account for scope 3 emissions, including those from commuting and aviation-related travel, and land use change emissions in UBC’s future emission reduction targets and enacting measures to reduce them.”

“Initiate a process to develop specific actions the University will take to implement commitments 2-3, including plans to allocate additional resources and funding to carry out the actions, and report back within 120 days.

“The process should be overseen by an advisory group representing students, staff and faculty - with invitation extended to Musqueam - and involve consultation with the relevant campus units, as well as opportunities for wider community input.”

Nicolas: We are now in full discussion period.

Gloria: Hi, you mentioned that invitation will be extended to Musqueam First Nations – but what about the other First Nations? What about the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations?

Sara: Thank you for that. This is something that I will address to the group.

Nevena: We do have an expert here – Michelle. She is part of the group that is organizing the Climate Strike.

Michelle: Hi. Thank you – you raised a great point. I will take it back to the team. The open letter – the way we framed it is to ensure that there is flexibility around it moving forward. These are suggestions, and ideally this will involve a process. The main goal right now is to get UBC to commit to this.

Victoria: Just a note if you want to take part in the strike – you can apply for academic concession if you will be taking part in the Strike.

Lois: Will the GSS have a meeting before the Strike? It is sometimes hard to go to these things alone.

Speaker: We are not discussing how we are going to strike. We are discussing if we are going to strike.



Michelle: Signing this would put the GSS in a position of support, the other thing it does is take an advocacy position towards the university. It is up to the discretion of supervisors to grant academic concession or a day off.

Gloria: We should vote to support the strike. It should be more about supporting, rather than physically joining. Others may have extenuating circumstances where they can't leave work and participate.

Sarah: Great points made by everyone. Can I now call to question (*meaning call to vote on*) the motion?

Speaker: Yes. We are now voting on whether we support this. No more discussion.

Mover: Sarah

Secunder: Philip

Result: For (21): Alejandra Botia, Judith Valerie Engel, Nafise Faridi Rad, Eric Frieling, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Negar Ghahramani, Victoria Gomez, Sara Hosseinirad, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Logan Lorenz, Timothy Luk, Arezoo M., Jungsoo Park, Sarah Park, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Nevena Rebic, Arash Shadkam, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner

Abstained: Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicolas Romualdi

Speaker: Congratulations, Sara. Kate, you can now work with Michelle to put this in the Policy Manual. It will be GSS' statement from now until it isn't.

4.4 CPIF EXPENDITURE - GSS PARKING LOT

WHEREAS the Thea Koerner House parking lot is in need of a power wash, painted lines, upgraded signs and an accessible parking spot

WHEREAS the upgrades are expected to last longer than three years and the Capital Projects Improvement Fund (CPIF) has ~~\$255,416.40~~ **\$247,000**

BIRT the GSS Council approve the expenditure of up to \$ 4,800 from CPIF for the upgrade of the parking lot



Philip: So, right now the parking lot does not have clear parking lines and it is not accessible for handicapped individuals. Drawing lines itself costs money from the CPIF.

Arash: So the number ... didn't you say it is not \$255,000 anymore?

Philip: Oh, yes.

Nicolas: It is \$247,000. We don't need the cents.

Mover: Nicolas

Secunder: Philip

Result: For (13): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Karen Devendrakumar, Sara Hosseinirad, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Timothy Luk, Gloria Mellesmoen, Theresa Pauly, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Lily Takeuchi

Abstained: Judith Valerie Engel

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 GSS FINANCIAL UPDATES

Group Responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Presentation Time: 10 minutes

Subject Description: Financial report on the past months - June, July and August

Relevant Materials: [Financial Report for June/July/August 2019.pptx](#)

Alireza: Can you explain the table with the actuals? What do the negatives mean?

Nicolas: What I think you are looking for is the variance. Positive variance means less was spent than budgeted; negative variance means more was spent than budgeted.

Alireza: So that's just the difference.

Philip: Well, different terms for each person. I can change it ...

Speaker: No more talking back and forth. I don't allow it because things can get heated quickly.

Sara: Why is corporate considered unfavourable if department 10 is \$10,000 underspent?

Nicolas: Yeah, that is wrong. I know I am \$10,000 overspent.

Philip: Yeah, I will have to correct that.

Arash: Seeing all these mistakes here, I recommend that the FEOO come back with another presentation.



BIRT the FEOO come back with a corrected presentation in the next Council meeting.

Mover: Arash

Secunder: Sarah

Result: For (16): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Karen Devendrakumar, Judith Valerie Engel, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Sara Hosseinirad, Alireza Kamyabi, Gloria Mellesmoen, Sarah Park, Theresa Pauly, Larissa Peck, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Kate Sedivy, Lily Takeuchi, Andrew Zang

5.2 REVIEW OF GRADUATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID (GSFA) CASES

Group Responsible: AcEx - Marjan

Presentation Time: 10 minutes

Subject Description: Graduate Student Financial Aid disbursement

Relevant Materials: -

Nicolas: I move that we take this in-camera.

Mover: Nicolas

Secunder: Tarique

Result: Motion carries.

----- ***in-camera*** -----

Motion carried.

5.3 CODE & POLICY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Presentation Time: 5 minutes

Subject Description: Update on Terms of Reference progress

Relevant Materials: [CPC Terms of Reference Update.pptx](#)



See above document

5.4 POLICY CONSULTATION REGARDING HONOURARIUM

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Presentation Time: 5 minutes

Subject Description: Policy Consultation - Honourarium for Chairs who are also Executives

Relevant Materials: [Honourarium for Chairs who are also Executives.pptx](#)

Nicolas: All executives have a conflict of interest with this discussion. We are going to leave the room.

Speaker: In the past, the executives always chairs. Services committee would be chaired by VP Services, for example. At that time, you can see both pros and cons as being presented by Kate. If the VP does not run the committee properly, the committee can be overpowered. But if they run it well, it can be really well. You will see less issues – for example, issues like with HR committee would be less likely to happen because the President would be responsible for chairing that committee.

Victoria: I think I am in favour of the executives receiving a reduced honourarium, temporarily.

Jackson: If the amount is nominal to begin with, does it really make sense to reduce it? If they are doing the same work that a non-executive is doing?

Speaker: Is this a statement or a question?

Jackson: Both.

Alireza: I am in favour of limited time and full compensation.

Andrew: Why do we need the three-month thing if someone else has the opportunity to Chair whenever they want to?

Kate: It seems that most people are in favour of Executives being unseated as chairs every month. It looks like our preference is to unseat the exec-chairs every month, and then they can continue to receive honorarium.

5.5 DEPARTMENT RESOURCES FOR SUPERVISORY EXCELLENCE AND DEGREE COMPLETION

Group Responsible: Graduate Student Council Caucus

Presentation Time: 7 minutes

Subject Description: Report on department resources for supervisory excellence and degree completion

Relevant Materials: [Report on Graduate Department Resources.pptx](#)



Nicolas: Thank you Lily, thank you Grad Council. This is the most well-done presentation from the Grad Council I've seen.

Lily: It's great to get some feedback because it is new for the Grad Council to take on these projects.

Tarique: This is really good work and resonates well with my office. The GSS advocates and I are also working on similar projects. We welcome Lily and her team to work with us.

***MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO RECONSIDER**

Timothy has a motion to reconsider the Climate Strike motion.

Timothy: What I want to do is bring Council's attention to the constitutionality of this move. We are having trouble finding a policy or purpose that allows us to sign this letter. I do not see any line that states our ability to sign a letter promoting a climate change strike, unrelated to actual access to the university.

Nicolas: Timothy has motivated. Now we are voting on whether we reconsider this motion, meaning we re-open the motion.

Arash: Considering 10 or 12 people have left, I do not think it is fair to reconsider the motion. At this time, I would also like the Speaker to count quorum.

***** MEETING ENDED AT 8:30 PM DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM *****

5.6 FUNDING ADVOCACY

Group Responsible: GSS President

Presentation Time: 15 minutes

Subject Description: Funding for graduate research students

Relevant Materials: [Funding Advocacy.pptx](#)



5.7 GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE UPDATE

Group Responsible: GSS President

Presentation Time: 15 minutes

Subject Description: Update on the Graduate Life Centre renovation project.

Relevant Materials: [Graduate Life Centre update.pptx](#)

5.8 SUSTAINABILITY AT GSS

Presentation: Sustainability in the GSS

Group responsible: Lois Evans / AcEx Committee

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: Recommendations on ways the GSS can engage the imperative for sustainability

Proposed objective: Solicit feedback on how the GSS can be more sustainable

Relevant materials: [Sustainability at GSS.pptx](#)

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- First 2 weeks of September: French on campus, Yoga, Zumba and Salsa classes begun
- September 21: Thesis Writing Boot Camp
- September 24: French off campus classes begin
- September 25: Lunch & Learn Career Curiosity
- October 11: Archery Tag
- October 15: CPR Training
- October 15: Lunch & Learn Student Care

6.2 EXECUTIVES

6.2.1 President:

- **General Updates**
For updates on the Graduate Life Center see the relevant presentation.
For updates on Funding Advocacy see the relevant presentation.



The GSS President continues to serve as deputy chair of the Human Resources Committee and temporarily assumed the role of the Strategic Planning ad-hoc committee Chair until a Chair is seated. The Chair of HR is expected to take over fully in the month of October.

- **2019 Orientation**

The GSS President has welcomed incoming graduate students at the Chan Centre, international Graduate Students at Woodward's and Off-Campus students at BC Children's Hospital, and participated in a number of orientation events which has led to direct engagement with the incoming students. For more updates on orientation events, see VP Students updates.

- **Institutional Memory and Document Management**

Despite initial delays, the GSS now has a formal proposal to finalize the IT infrastructure for the document management system, thanks mostly to the work of the GM and the Communications Manager. The proposal is being reviewed (a final decision has not been made at the time of writing this update, however, it is likely made by Council, please ask if interested).

- **Board of Governors and Academic Renewal Working Group**

A much more fluid relationship has been established between the GSS and the UBC Board. We expect this to assist with the funding advocacy efforts.

- **Alumni Advisory Panel**

An invitation has been extended to former Presidents to meet at TKH and join the initiative to Launch the Alumni Advisory Panel. The Event's Manager is currently coordinating a date.

- **UBC Director Search Committees**

The GSS President has finalized his service to UBC in the search committees for the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Office (SVPRO) Director and the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) Director. The processes are finalized and UBC will release the results of the search process to a wide audience in an official communication (they remain confidential at the time of writing this update).

- **TKH Improvements and Building Signage**

The President continues to collaborate closely with the FEOO and the GM to assess and execute the necessary upgrades and maintenance to TKH. For details, please see FEOO updates. Agreement has been reached between Sauder School of Business, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the GSS on building signage. UBC's process remains difficult to navigate.

6.2.2 VP University & Academic Affairs

- Met with Vivian (General Manager) to discuss office procedures, Human resource issues,
- Met with the following Advocacy Staff: Matthew and Yu to go over introductions and expectations for the roles; discussed terms of renewal for Advocate Coordinator positions and next steps



- Attended Governance and Accountability Committee Meeting
- Attended AcEx Committee Meeting
- Attended Graduate Student Financial Aid Meeting
- Completed office orientation with Vivian
- Meetings with Key stakeholders to get a handle on the expectations and role of the Office:
 1. UBC Food Insecurity Action Team (Aug 21st, 2019)
 2. GSS Advocacy Staff (Sept 3rd, 2019)
 3. UBC VP Academic (Aug 22nd, 2019)
 4. AMS VP Academic (Aug 28th, 2019)
 5. Previous GSS VP UAA representations (Ty and Sara)

- Redefine Advocacy Goals with the Advocates and developed a timeline for achieving same
- Meet with UBC Ombudsman and Vice Provost to discuss Student Funding
- Meeting with Associate Dean Academic (introductions)
- Attended GSS Orientation Events: Pancake Breakfast and Book Cruise

6.2.3 VP External Relations

Graduate Financial Support:

- The VP External attended the ThinkGrad Meeting in August and asked our questions regarding the increase in the stipend of graduate students based on CPI with the members of ThinkGrad. The GSA of the University of Ottawa told us that some of their departments adjust the graduate students' stipend according to CPI. I will be contacting the departments directly to get more information.

- The graduate student ask for the Lobbying trip to Victoria in October organized by the ABCS will be dedicated to asking extending the financial support of BC government, and the VP External of GSS is directly engaging in preparing this ask.

Federal Election:

- The Federal Election Coordinator is hired and working from September 16, 2019.

- The Introduction to the Canadian Government event was held on September 12th, 2019. Our great speaker was Dr. Conny Lin who talked about the structure of the Canadian government and how to engage in the upcoming federal election. International graduate students shared their information about the governmental structure in their home country.



- “Meet your Candidate” event: The event is advertised and will be held on September 25th, 2019 at GSS Thea Lounge. Wine and Cheese will be provided. Ms. Kenny Leigh from NDP and Dr. Amita Kuttner from Green Party are confirmed their attendance. We are still inviting candidates from Liberal and Conservative parties.

6.2.4 VP Students

Collaboration with Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication (VP-Students initiative):

- One-day writing intensives to be held on October 8th for the MAs and October 22nd for the PhDs. These will be held in Dodson Room in the IKB. We will provide refreshments and the CWSC will provide space and run the retreats.
- Close relationship has been established with the CWSC for more collaboration.

Writing Retreats with Letitia Henville:

- A writing retreat is planned to be held on September 21st with the help of Letitia Henville. This will be held in Thea’s Lounge. This is the continuation of the series of writing retreats that I started last year. The event is sold out.

Ongoing Conversation with GRASPODS and Jacqui Brinkman:

- I have been in conversation with GRASPODS and Jacqui to organize some of the workshops that the FGPS holds on-campus, in VGH area. Needs assessment has been done and as a pilot we decided to organize a Breaking Patterns of Procrastination workshop.
- Jasleen has been connecting to Levonne Abshire for potential workshops on students’ mental health and wellbeing.
- Ongoing conversations with Jasleen regarding other kinds of workshops and events for off-campus students such as a career fair.



Physical Activity Committee (VP-Students is a member of this committee):

- We applied for and received \$2000 from a funding that was available as Wellbeing Funding. We used this funding for our series of hikes. We will be saving some money here which we will try to spend on other things such as buying equipment for spaces if needed.

Workshops on Mental health and Wellbeing of Graduate Students:

- Last year, the VP-UAA worked on this with Levonne Abshire, Brianne Howard and Karen Flood. The plan was for them to organize 6 workshops on student's mental health and wellbeing. I had a meeting with them in the beginning of this term to support this initiative. They were going to plan two workshops this summer, however, I am not aware if they have finalized the dates as we are getting closer to the end of summer. I have emailed them a few times, but haven't heard back.

Events and Classes:

- The GSS in collaboration with Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and International Student Development, organized the 2019 GradStart Orientation that took place on August 29/30th on campus. The GSS also planned several follow up activities during the month to further enhance the experience for Incoming Grad Students to UBC. Below you can find a detailed list of the events that were planned and specifics on tickets sales per event:
 - ❖ **Welcome BBQ:** 120 tickets sold
 - ❖ **Pancake Breakfast (free):** 120 RSVP's (SOLD OUT)
 - ❖ **Campus Tours (Free):** 150 RSVP's
 - ❖ **MOA Tours (Free):** 90 RSVP's
 - ❖ **Koerner's Happy Hour:** 200 tickets sold
 - ❖ **Speed Friending (free):** 70 RSVP's (SOLD OUT)
 - ❖ **Hike to Lighthouse Park:** 43 tickets sold (SOLD OUT)
 - ❖ **Pancake Breakfast 2.0 (free):** 120 RSVP's (SOLD OUT)
 - ❖ **Sunset Boat Cruise:** 195 tickets sold (SOLD OUT)
 - ❖ **Hike to Dog Mountain:** 43 tickets sold (SOLD OUT)
 - ❖ **Bowling Night:** 30 tickets sold (spots still available)



Overall it has been a successful start to Orientation and we are starting to plan more events and classes for the coming months, such as French, Zumba and yoga classes, as well as a Thesis writing boot camp, archery tag and professional headshots.

6.2.5 Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Updates on the GSS centre and the CPIF spending:

Leon's Lounge

- Professionally painted
- Speakers mounted
- Has a max of 30 pax (theater style) and 20 pax max (banquet style)
- Piano well tuned

Needed;

- Painting or new face of the piano
- Mounting a ceiling projector
- Replacing curtains
- Replacing the old ceiling
- Electrical work in the ceiling to power the projector

Remarks: Work was well done, and the space is ready for booking.

Boardroom

- Professionally painted
- TV mounted
- Carpet cleaned
- Fan operating (cooling the air)
- Old chairs moved to storage and on craigslist
- Curtains well placed

Remarks: The room is operational and has been used several times now.

Study Room

- New face with brand new curtains
- Projector fully operating



Remarks:

All is set to go the CPIF was excellently spent.

6.3 COMMITTEES

6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- After the presentation of the 2019 GSS - SSS results, the committee continues to engage in various issues concerning graduate students: sustainability, stipends and funding, student loan interests, provincial insurance, and the Stadium Road Neighbourhood Plan. We are also finishing our updates on our annual goals and preparing for the turn-over in October 2019.

6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC revised our own Terms of Reference (Aug 27), and discussed policy on whether an executive serving as a chair outside their normal responsibilities should receive the honourarium for a chair in addition to that for serving as an executive (Aug 27). We also discussed our SMART Goals for the past year (Sept 10), and began discussing next year's goals (Aug 27). We discussed updates to the HR manual and making allowances in the Policy Manual for online versions of forms (Sept 10), both of which will require further consultation before action is taken.

6.3.3 Elections Committee

- All three current voting members will not run for the committee chair position and were planning to resign sometime next February. As a result, the Election Committee urgently needs to recruit new members and needs to elect a new chair in October. Ben will help to post a recruitment message to the Society and committee members will try to recruit new members during this month's council meeting.
- Regarding the possibilities of holding a by-election for VP UAA position, it would be at the Society's best interest to appoint the interim VP UAA until a new VP UAA being elected next year rather than holding a by-election this year. One of the Election Committee members will contact C&CP to confirm if this meets the Society's mandate.

6.3.4 Executive Committee

- The Executive Committee continues to act as the coordination centre for the operational activities of the GSS. The GSS website redesign process is directly overseen by the committee as a whole and has been moving forward on schedule. The new website is expected to launch before the next Council meeting.



6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

-

6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- Chairship: Victoria Gomez is continuing as Acting Chair due to low attendance for election within the committee.
- SMART Goals: The G&A Committee is approaching the end of the SMART goal review process for the 2018-2019 year (October 2018 - September 2019). We are soliciting committees and caucuses for their reports and will report to the October Council Meeting.
- Committee KPIs: G&A is also investigating developing KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) for committees which would be tracked more frequently than SMART goals and look at whether committees are functioning successfully on an "everyday" basis.
- Strategic Planning: G&A has chosen a representative to sit on the Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee and assist in the strategic plan development process.

6.3.7 House Finance Committee

- The House Finance Committee has recently been discussing and revising the policy regarding the sale of the society's assets, in consultation with CPC. The committee has also been reviewing the monthly profit and loss statements to identify large discrepancies between the budget and actual spending. We have been discussing CPIF expenditures for upgrades to Thea Koerner House, including upgrading the kitchen grease trap, renovating the GSS archive room, and upgrading the parking lot.

6.3.8 Human Resources

- Part time Staff Compensation
The HR committee has devised a structured part time staff compensation policy. The details can be seen in the minutes from August

6.3.9 Services Committee

-

6.3.10 AMS Caucus

-

6.3.11 Graduate Council Caucus

-



6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

6.4.1 Senators:

-

6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- The Board of Governors held their committee meetings over the past two weeks. The detailed agendas [can be found here](#). The Board received presentations on issues including: a preview of tuition increase requests to come in November, undergraduate research, research excellence clusters and president's excellence chairs, graduate students in the research enterprise, the equity & inclusion office's annual report, food insecurity, student housing waitlists, oversight of external bookings and capital project updates including two new residence projects. The full Board of Governors will meet on September 24th at UBC Okanagan (but it will be webcast for those interested – information available [on the Board website](#)).

6.5 GSS STAFF

- The staff as well as a few of the Executives participated in the Effective Communication Workshop facilitated by Arftab from the UBC Equity and Inclusion office. Everyone felt that it was a helpful and informative session, and thus the GSS staff has invited Arftab to come in and conduct a second session on September 24th.
- the August 16th Staff Retreat on Granville Island was a success; we came up with GSS Lunch and Learn as well as Professional Development topics, and brainstormed ideas on GSS initiatives. Through kayaking, we cultivated team building.

A survey on the Staff Retreat was filled out by the staff - overall, everyone agreed that it was well-organized and beneficial. The staff will consult the comments/input from the survey for next year's Staff retreat, planned for May.

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, October 17th at 5:30 pm



Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Nest

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- **Tarique Benbow was unseated as Graduate Council Representative.**
- **Tarique Benbow was unseated as Chair of Governance and Accountability Committee.**
- **Phil Angel was unseated as Councillor from Services Committee.**
- **Joyce Lam was unseated as Departmental Representative of Neuroscience.**
- **Joyce Lam was unseated as Councillor from Services Committee.**
- **Temitope Onifade was unseated as Councillor from Governance and Accountability Committee.**
- **Andrew Zang was unseated as Ordinary Member of Services Committee.**
- **Hilal Kina was unseated as GSS Representative on the Faculty of Arts Council.**
- **Cristina Rubino was unseated as Departmental Representative of Rehabilitation Science.**
- **Andy An was unseated as Ordinary Member of Code and Policy Committee.**

8 ADJOURNMENT

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

Mover:

Seconder:

Result: