**Issue:** Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity: Position Statement

**Date:** 2/10/2020

**Submitted by:** Tarique Benbow

**Definitions:**
- Position Statement: The Society’s means of expressing an opinion, sentiment or principle

**Recommended action:**
To adopt, in February Council, the presented statement of principle that affirms the Society’s commitments to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity.

**Current Situation:**
The GSS makes many efforts to support and champion minority groups through its work. However, there is no comprehensive document describing our institutional commitment to these actions, or framework to support this work.

**Discussion:**
The proposed position statement discusses the GSS’s role in representing and championing minority and marginalized groups, and in addressing historical and unconscious biases through our advocacy work that prevent us from meeting the unique needs of UBC’s entire graduate community. Our future actions must be performed in an equitable, just, and accountable framework so we can fully serve all in their UBC graduate experience.

The position statement was presented to the Academic and External Committee on January 9th, and the committee endorsed the statement.

**Next steps:**
- If the statement is approved, it will be included in the Policy Manual as an appendix.
- The Society will develop concrete actions and recommendations that support the statement.

**Scheduled review:** December 2022 Council meeting (per Policy 14.4.2 on expiration of position statements)

**Appendix:**
See AcEx Minutes Jan 9th for discussion of the statement.

See the statement for a list of relevant supporting documents.