



ATTENDANCE

Present: Airu Ji, Alejandra Botia, Alireza Kamyabi, Andrew Zhang, Arash Shadkam, Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Gloria Mellesmoen, Jackson Schumacher, Jenny Lee, Jordan Hamden, Joseph Garen, Judith Valerie Engel, James Wong (proxy for Kiana Yau), Larissa Peck, Logan Lorenz, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Mollie Holmberg, Nafise Faridi, Negar Ghahramani, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Oluwakemi Oke, Philip Karangu, Pouya Rezaeinia, Raphael Deberdt, Sara Hosseinirad, Sarah Park, Tarique Benbow, Teesha Luehr, Temitayo Olarewaju, Samuel Adeniji (proxy for Temitope Onifade), Timothy Luk, Victoria Gomez, (Kate) Katharine Sedivy-Haley (proxy for Virginia Pichler), Yee Fay Lim, Vanessa Porter (representative from GrasPods), Kieran Davey – (Guest speaker UBC Alumni), Taran Dhillon (minutes taker), Conny Lin (Speaker)

Absent: Yangfan Zhang, Alexa Tanner, Arwa Nemir

Regrets: Samantha Peng, Jonathan

Quorum: 19 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at 5 : 31 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover Nicolas Romualdi
:

Seconded: Tarique Benbow

Result Motion Carries
:

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: It is always nice as we can see the land, with that I acknowledge that we are on the

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.



1 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

1.1 STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO UBC ALUMNI

Group responsible: Kieran Davey - UBC Alumni

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Subject description: Alumni UBC is forming a Student Advisory Council. Preliminary conversations have signaled that the best way to engage with graduate students is through the GSS.

Proposed objective: Present the Advisory Council to the GSS.

Relevant materials: [UBC SAC Strategy Draft \(1pg\)-GSS.docx](#)

Question Period:

Nevena: Is it for undergraduate or graduate students?

Kieran Davey (KD): It is for both.

Nevena: Do you have any idea what we are hoping to see for programming?

KD: Yes, the focus will be Imagine day, Jump start, Homecoming, Graduation, SLC leadership conference. We run a whole bunch of different events, it benefits both the groups, alumni and student groups and having student voice will help us a lot. There will be tons of events for graduate students too and we are hoping to have our general meetings biweekly, that is the plan.

Kate: Is the membership flexible for the amount of time available to the graduate students?

KD: For graduate students we have not yet nailed down if the membership will be for 1 year or 2 years term. I can get back to you with more information.

Gloria: I think one year commitment would be great given my program since every year is different. If you ask me for 2 years commitment, I think I won't be committing to it.

Alireza: Is the idea that alumni and student can connect through events that the council will set up?

KD: Yes, we already have the the alumni advisory council set up which comprises of 45 alumni. This will be the student version of that except that we will be doing less of advisory role and more of event planning. There will be two councils for mentor ship setup.

Judith: For the mentor-ship program offered by Alumni UBC, will the mentor-ship be provided for all the students of UBC or for department/ faculty specific students?

KD: In terms of the alumni engagement as a whole, we have general alumni staff for each faculty across campus who are all working to engage alumni of their respective faculties. We do see sometimes like there are lots of alumni from faculty of arts. We are hoping to be engaging alumni from all faculties.

Sarah: Who are the executives in important roles?

KD: The applications are open to both undergrad students as well as graduate students. We will be open for applications this January 2020.

Alireza: Are you considering to extend the mentorship program to student bodies?

KD: Off course, the goal is to be setting up as much mentorship as possible.



KD: My email is kieran.davey@ubc.ca .Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We will be starting our recruitment in January.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	Nov 14th, 2019	Human Resources Committee:	Oct 15th, 2019 Nov 18th, 2019 Nov 26th, 2019
Code & Policy Committee:	Nov 22nd, 2019	Services Committee:	
Elections Committee:		House Finance Committee:	
Executive Committee:	Dec 6th, 2019	Governance & Accountability Committee:	
Executive Oversight Committee:	Nov 14th, 2019	Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee:	Nov 25th, 2019
All Chairs:	Nov 19th, 2019		

Mover Larissa P.

:

Seconder Nicolas R.

:

Result: Motion Carries

Victoria G. :Did the House of Finance and Services committee meet since the last council meeting?

Nicolas R. : The House of Finance met last week but the Services Committee didn't meet since last council meeting.

Vote: 16 in-favor, 1 Against

In-favor: Tayo Olarewaju, Philip K., Victoria G., Andrew Z., Raphael D., Alejandra B., Alireza K., Tarique B, Nafise F, Jackson S, Jordon Hamden, Nevna R, Judith E, Timothy L, Nicolas R, Sarah P

Against: James Wong (proxy for Kiana Yau)



December 2019 Council Agenda

December 12th, 2019 | Thea Koerner Lounge | 5:30 pm

	Marcos Riquelme, Brett Hathaway, Kate Sedivy-Haley	Ordinary Member	3
Code & Policy		Councillor	1
	Kate Sedivy-Haley	Ordinary Member	4
Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	3
Executive Oversight		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	4
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	0
	Kate Sedivy- Haley	Ordinary Member	3
House Finance		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
Human Resources		Councillor	1
	Kate Sedivy-Haley	Ordinary Member	2
Services		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1
Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee	Sarah	Councillor	1
	Kate Sedivy-Haley	Ordinary Member	1

Mover: Larissa P. **Seconder:** Nicolas R. **Result:** Motion carries

Vote: Negar G, Philip K, Victoria G, Andrew Z, Oluwakemi Oke, Teesha L, Alejandra B, Alireza K, Tarique, Nafise, Larissa P., Arash S., Gloria M., Nevena R., Judith Valerie E., Jenny, Nicolas, Arezoo A., Tayo O., Virginia P., Raphael D., Kiana Y., Logan L., Sara H., Josef G., Jackson S., Jordan H., Maria M. (28)

Abstain: Timothy L., Sarah P. (2)

4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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



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

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Anthropology Graduate Student Association	Steve Daniel
Botany Graduate Student Association	Josef Garen
Civil Engineering Graduate Student Society	Sampath Kumar Magatapalli
Geography Graduate Student Association	Katharine Baldwin
Graduate Student Club (GSC) Chemical and Biological Engineering	Yanuar Philip Wijaya
Institute of Ocean and Fisheries Graduate Student Society	Sara Cannon
Botany and Zoology Wellness Initiative	Haley Branch
GrasPods	Jasleen Grewal

Mover: Nicolas R.

Seconder: Maria M.

Result: Motion Carries

Questions:

Arezoo A.: What is the Botany and Zoology Wellness Initiative?

Pouya R.: You can check the supporting documents attached with the council agenda.

Tayo O.: I do not think that answers the question. Does it?

Pouya R.: We asked them a few questions in the application form and they answered those questions.

Madam Speaker, Conny Lin read the answers from the application form upon request. (supporting documents attached)

Arezoo A.: what kind of events they want to hold?

Madam Speaker, Conny Lin read the answers from the application form upon request. (supporting documents attached)

Judith Valerie E.: The School of Music does not have a Grad student affiliate but there is interest to do so, so can I help them to start their own society?

Madam Speaker: You can please your ask your questions to the VP Students Pouya R. later.



Vote: 28 in-favor, none against

In-favor: Negar G., Philip K., Victoria G., Andrew Z, Oluwakemi Oke, Teesha L., Alejandra B., Alireza K., Tarique B., Nafise r., Larissa P., Gloria M., Nevena R., Judith Valerie E., Jenny L., Nicolas R., Arezoo A., Tayo O., Virginia P., Raphael D., Kiana Y., Logan L., Sara H., Josef G., Jordan H., Maria M., Timothy L., Mollie H., (28)

Result: Motion carries

4.2 COMMITTEE POLICY

Group responsible: Policy Revision Form - 7.1 7.7.6 Committees.docx

Subject description: Committee Policy

Proposed objective: Adopt

Relevant materials: [Policy Revision Form - 7.1 7.7.6 Committees.docx](#)

Motion:

WHEREAS changes to several of our committee policies are necessary in order to ensure policy is consistent with our current SMART goals and agenda updates procedures, adjust expectations according to the practical realities of committee function, and improve clarity, and

WHEREAS committee chairs have been consulted on these issues, and CPC has approved the changes,

BIRT Policies 7.1.6-7, 7.1.11-13, and 7.7.6 be repealed and replaced with the policies described in Policy Revision Form - 7.1 7.7.6 Committees.docx.

BIFRT Policy 7.1.14 be adopted:

7.1.14 Any resolution agreed to in writing by greater than one half of the members of the Committee, and placed in the minutes of the next Committee meeting, shall be considered valid as if regularly passed during a Committee meeting.

Mover: Larissa P.

Second: Alireza K.

Nicolas: I move to amend the motion as- item 7.1.11 "all standing committees of council, except the executive committee,"

Kate: I suppose it is a friendly amendment?

Speaker: Since it is a policy amendment, I will not accept a friendly amendment. I need a seconder.

Second: Gloria M.

Vote: None opposed to this amendment.

Discussion:



Alireza: I would like a clarification on the motion. Should the motion read as “the resolution agreed to in writing by greater than one half of the members of the Committee and placed in the minutes or agenda of the next meeting”?

Kate: It is ‘minutes of the next committee meeting’

Vote (2/3rd vote required): in-favor: Negar G., Victoria G., Andrew Z, Oluwakemi Oke, Teesha L., Alejandra B., Alireza K., Tarique B., Nafise r., Larissa P., Gloria M., Nevena R., Judith Valerie E., Jenny L., Nicolas R., Tayo O., Virginia P., Raphael D., Logan L., Sara H., Josef G., Jordan H., Maria M., Timothy L., Jackson S., Sarah P.(26)

Against: none

Result: Motion carries

4.3 ELECTIONS POLICY

Group responsible: Code & Policy Committee, Elections Committee

Subject description: Committee Policy

Proposed objective: Adopt

Relevant materials: [Policy Revision Form – 12 Elections.docx](#)

Motion:

WHEREAS changes to the Elections Policy are necessary to improve clarity, and ensure our policy is in line with our use of the AMS SimplyVoting system and with the Universities Act, as described in full in the Policy Revision Form – 12 Elections.docx (“Elections Policy Form”), and

WHEREAS Elections Committee has requested these changes, and CPC has reviewed and approved them,

BIRT Policy 6.5.1, and the lines of Policy 12 identified in Elections Policy Form be revised as described within Elections Policy Form, including the adoption of new policies 12.5.4 and 12.5.7, removal of current policies 12.5.6 through 12.5.10 and 12.6.5, and renumbering as indicated in the Elections Policy Form.

Mover: Larissa P.

Seconder: Philip K.

Kate: I want to ensure that the formatting indication used is clear. In the previous council meeting there were questions about any eliminations in the policy, those are now indicated in the strike-through. If there are any concerns at this moment, please let me know.

Vote (special resolution): 2/3rd votes required

In-favor: Negar G., Victoria G., Andrew Z, Oluwakemi Oke, Teesha L., Alireza K., Tarique B., Nafise R., Larissa P., Gloria M., Nevena R., Judith Valerie E., Jenny L., Nicolas R., Tayo O., Virginia P., Raphael D., Logan L., Sara H., Jordan H., Maria M., Timothy L., Mollie H., Jackson S., Sarah P., Arash S., Philip K., Arezoo A. (28)



Against: None

Result: Motion Carries

4.4 LOFT SPACE USE

Group responsible: GSS President

Subject description: In 2017, the GSS Council approved the use of one of the Loft offices as a nap space to be managed by the Graduate Wellbeing Network. This plan never materialized and is incompatible with the new plan for the space. The GSS has engaged with the GSWN in a plan that would be suitable for the current and planned layout of the Loft and an agreement has been reached, where the GSWN will staff office 4202C once a week to advise graduate students on wellbeing resources. Furthermore, it is not good practice for Council to directly micromanage the use of GSS spaces, as evident from the current problem.

Proposed objective: Adopt

Supporting Documents: GSS Council Minutes, February 2017, item 5. Available online.

Motion:

WHEREAS the decision made in the Council meeting in February 2017 to use room 4202C in the GSS Loft is incompatible with the current use and plans for the GSS Loft.

BIRT the GSS Council removes any restrictions to the use of room 4202C in the GSS Loft at the AMS Nest.

Mover: Nicolas R. **Seconded:** Tarique B. **Result: Motion Carries**

Motivation by Nicolas R.: The council in 2017 approved the use of one of the offices in the NEST as a nap space to be managed by the Graduate Student Wellbeing Network. This never materialized. You may have noticed that there are renovations going in the new space. We talked to the GSWN and they are going to use the office space for student wellness advising one or two times a week. They also agreed that a nap space there is not a good idea because it is too noisy there. I also do not think it is a good practice for GSS to micromanage the spaces. So, we will continue to manage this space the same way as we manage every other GSS space.

Sarah P.: Where is room 4202 C in the GSS Loft?

Nicolas R. : As we enter the GSS Loft, the second office is the Rm. 4202.

Sarah P. : Is it strictly for only grad students to use or for anyone to use or book?

Nicolas R.: That particular office is intended to act as a space for offering services to students. There are talks with GPS to put other services that they could fund out of that office as well and the office won't be open for bookings in general. That is the current plan.

Vote: In-favor: Negar G., Victoria G., Andrew Z, Oluwakemi Oke, Teesha L., Alireza K., Tarique B., Nafise R., Larissa P., Gloria M., Nevena R., Judith Valerie E., Jenny L., Nicolas R., Tayo O., Virginia P., Raphael D., Logan L.,



Sara H., Jordan H., Maria M., Timothy L., Josef G., Jackson S., Sarah P., Arash S., Philip K., Arezoo A., Kiana Y., Alejandra B. (30)

Against: none

Result: Motion Carries

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 EXECS MIDTERM GOALS REVIEW

Group responsible: Executive Oversight Committee

Presentation time: 15 minutes

Subject description: Execs Midterm Goals review.

Proposed objective: updates

Relevant materials: [MT Executive Goal Review 2019.pptx](#)

Questions:

Victoria G.: Are President's number of smart goals (nine), humane number of smart goals?

Logan: He shared with us at that time that they are manageable number of goals. He is a hard worker.

Nicolas R.: I want to recognize that I get to do these goals as I get a lot of support from the GSS staff members. For example: Things like website. The oversight may come from me but ninety five percent of the work on the communications came from Communication Manager and Digital Communications Assistant.

5.2 FINANCIAL REPORTING

Group responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Subject description: Financial reporting.

Proposed objective: updates

Relevant materials: [GSS Financial Reporting November 2019.pptx](#)

Question:

Maria M.: Is there a plan to make a survey in order to get options how to use the money for building GLC space as we do for any other, like big change or investment? Has it been thought to include student's voices to have an idea about how we can use this money elsewhere?

Philip K.: GLC is coming but it is in process but the money won't be enough to do it.

Sarah P.: Question about the Corporate slide? We got the October cheques in November but November month shows no cheque received. So are we waiting for cheques for the month of November?

Nicolas R.: There is no November cheque. Those are the cheques that we receive from student tuition which UBC collects on our behalf. We receive it three times a year.



Arash S.: I wanted to point out that this document is a standalone document and someone not here cannot read it easily. Explicitly mentioning corporate revenue generation. Few suggestions: *for someone not here, a commentary will be helpful to understand the charts. Otherwise, we are on the right track I believe.

Alireza K.: I noticed that in the budget for Execs, the budget actual are accumulating, but for corporate, it does not seem to be the case. Why?

Philip K.: I think for corporate, it's the one that makes money. I am not sure if I am answering your question. It is all matter of timing especially for corporate budget. For executive budget, it is stipulated but not used thus it does not accumulate.

Tarique – Some expenses are avoided due to application of grants and sponsors.

Sara M: some invoices have not been received yet. Some variables aren't known at the beginning, such as the location of the meeting for the VP External, which affects the travel budget. So, this is something that can happen.

Maria M.: commented that usually budgets are set by numbers spent in previous years. And budget may reflect use in previous years or whether the executives find ways to use money in a different way.

Philip K.: Just for clarification, whatever money was allocated for event cannot be used for food, travels cannot be used for other things. We are very satisfied with the job and budget spendings of the executives.

5.3 GLC UPDATE

Group responsible: GSS President

Presentation time: 5 minutes

Subject description: Update on the progress of the GLC project. Most notably, preliminary multilateral consensus on functionalities of each floor.

Proposed objective: Update the GSS Council.

Relevant materials: [201912 GLC Update.pptx](#)

Questions:

Maria M.: and your offices will go to?

Nicolas R.: potentially our offices will operate from the social space in the loft, but in the long term the GSS offices will move to the Ballroom space being used by the Sauder School right now. So after the Sauder School moves out of the GSS building, we can probably move the offices.

Negar: What is the time frame for these plans?

Nicolas R.: I cannot commit to the time frame now? There is a sequence to how things have to happen. But this whole thing could take up-to 5 years if completed in stages.

Arezoo A.: I was wondering, there would be a studio for Zumba and yoga, and any estimation how many people can it accommodate?

Nicolas R.: up-to 150 people max.

Alireza: Is there a timeline? Would we need a townhall for consultations?

Nicolas R.: I do not have a timeline. We are not at a stage of town hall. It is becoming clear what the building can do and it is actually becoming clear now but yet there are things we can't do with the building.



Kate: Given the scope of the consultations change, what will be the possible things raised in the consultation?

Nicolas: I will give two examples from the presentation- a lot of child friendly space in the building, however there will be enclosed space for graduate students. Affordable food outlet is something that we want or not? That is for the future consultations.

Alejandra B.: How many people have actually replied to the surveys/consultations done?

Nicolas R.: I do not have a number. Not even one councillor showed to the session for consultation, I do not know the number and it was not very good.

Arash: Thanks for the update. What do you exactly mean by affordable food?

Nicolas: \$7 food and sandwich and soup. Someplace where you can have a nutritious food at low price.

Arash: Will GSS subsidize the food? Or what will be the model?

Nicolas: I am working on an answer, still working on it. GSS will not subsidize the food. NO!

Gloria: Will there be attention to any food allergies? In addition to considering the price will you consider diet restrictions?

Nicolas: I still do not know how exactly it would look like but will come back as soon as I have a solid answer to it.

Sarah: There is currently seedling in the GSS building. Will they be given a space?

Nicolas: Any questions regarding stakeholders, I can answer it in off-camera

5.4 EVENTS AND PROGRAMS 2019

Group responsible: GSS VP Students

Presentation time: 7 minutes

Subject description: Updates on Events and Programs participation.

Proposed objective: Update the GSS Council.

Relevant materials: [Events and Programs 2019- VP Students.pptx](#)

Question:

Victoria G.: Do you collect information such as how many of them are councillors and how many are ordinary members?

Pouya: No

Arezoo A: Any ideas, how to improve marketing?



Pouya: It is a little challenging for me since the VP Student's office does not control GSS marketing.

Tayo O.: What are the challenges that you face? Also there is a decrease in number of events from May to December. Is it the total of 324 programs or attendance as per the presentation?

Pouya: No, it is the attendance number, when we plan an event, we try to over budget, and if we are left with money, we try to have more events.

5.5 ELECTIONS 2020 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Group responsible: Sarah Park, Elections Committee

Presentation time: 7 minutes

Subject description: Elections 2020 Student Engagement Plan.

Proposed objective: Share with GSS Council what Elections Committee plans on doing to engage the general graduate student population to get a decent voter turnout.

Relevant materials: [Elections Student Engagement.pdf](#)

Questions-

Victoria G.: I am excited. That is an exciting presentation and I encourage everyone to share these ideas.

Gloria: If there is any way to encourage the candidates keeping in mind the diversity of departments?

Alireza: Excellent presentation. Do you have any plans to get nominations from candidates?

Sarah P.: One of our smart goals is focussed on that. Last year, they focused on the impacts, but what we were planning on doing this year was growth campaign highlighting GSS growth and focussing on marketing aspect would be our approach. But if you have any keen ideas, I would be looking forward to hear from you.

5.6 GSS FUNDING SURVEY UPDATE

Group responsible: VP University and Academic Affairs

Presentation time: 5 minutes

Subject description: GSS Research Grad. Students Survey Updates.

Proposed objective: To inform council on the completion of the funding survey and next steps in our funding advocacy efforts. To present tokens of appreciation to survey advocates and volunteers.

Relevant materials: [Council Presentation Final copy.pptx](#)

Questions-

Gloria- Did anyone from my department participate?

Tarique: I cannot tell now, but yes we have that data. We set up booth in three departments. I will share more information later.



Tisha: The survey booths that were set up, were the computers brought to the department or was it the department reps? Were there physical booths with a computer or just booths with a person sitting there?

Tarique: survey booths were manned by survey advocates. We had physical booths in the department with the representatives with fliers and no computer. We already sent a personalized link to the participants so we could not set up a computer there as it would also not have been private.

5.7 GSS ALUMNI ADVISORY PANEL

Group responsible: President

Presentation time: 5 minutes

Subject description: Introduce the GSS Alumni Advisory Panel, its current composition, and its current and future role.

Proposed objective: Inform.

Relevant materials: [201912 Alumni Advisory Panel.pptx](#)

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Updates for December:

- DIY Craft Event for Families on December 14th
- Winter Orientation taking place in January
 - MOA Tours on January 9th
 - Pancake Breakfast and Speed Friending on January 10th
 - Bowling on January 24th
- Lunch and Learn on Sustainable Mining on January 13th
- Koerner's Happy Hour on January 17th

6.2 EXECUTIVES

6.2.1 President:

- **Academic Freedom Senate Working Group**
The Senate working group continues to meet regularly. The meetings are now fully in camera.
- **Affordability Advocacy**
The GSS presented to the UBC Board of Governors on the funding and affordability crisis amongst graduate students, based on the results of the 2019 GSS-SSS. The UBC administration will present a final proposal to the Board for implementation in the January/February cycle, which will largely be



developed in the Academic Renewal working group. The data from the funding survey will be brought to the ARWG in the January meeting.

6.2.2 VP University and Academic Affairs

- **Constructing the Advocacy Panel**

- ☼ A review of the advocacy panel, and terms of reference was discussed in the AcEx committee meeting. The committee has also adopted the formation of the advocacy panel as a SMART goal, which the VP will collaborate to bring to fruition.

- **Sexual Violence & Assault Prevention Campaign**

- ☼ Final preparations are being made for SAAMs. We are partnering with SVPRO, UBC Wellness to launch a workshop and a campaign in January 2020. "Power-UP" Addressing the student supervisor dynamic is slated for Jan. 22nd, 2020 and promises to be enlightening and mentally stimulating.

- **GSS Research Graduate Student Funding Survey Update**

- ☼ The Funding survey was a phenomenal success and a record breaker for the GSS in terms of participation and engagement from our members. The survey closed on November 29th, 2019, with a 16% participation rate. This is the highest participation rate we have had for any survey administered by the GSS and signals the invested interests our members have in making graduate education affordable. We have begun to analyze the data and will use the findings to support our advocacy asks to UBC Board.

- **GSS Course-Based Graduate Student Funding Focus Groups**

- ☼ A general call for interest in a course-based specific funding focus group has indicated the need for such an initiative. We have high interests and have begun preparation to launch this series of focus groups (Jan-Feb 2020) to hear the issues that this population face and to formulate possibly "asks" and solutions to address funding/affordability concerns.

- **Consultation and Other Submissions**

- Prospective Iranian Students Deadline Extension Submission
- Tuition Consultation Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care Submission
- Transit Strike Submission

6.2.3 VP External Relations

- **MSP fee increases for international Students**

- ☼ Consultation: Met with:
 - Michelle and Cristina
 - CUPE 2278 President.
 - UBC government relations: Alexa.
- ☼ Actions:
 - SFU GSS hasn't sent us their confirmed plan.
 - In ABCS, we voted to collaborate with SFU GSS for this issue.
 - Ben sent out emails to AOs: GradPods and CUPE 2278 will send us their statement.



- The first draft of the open letter has been sent to ACEX committee.
 - The open letter will be sent to Michelle, CUPE 2278, probably AMS, and SFU GSS for proofreading.
 - We will send the letter to CUPE 2278, SFU GSS, AMS, TSSU, and UVic GSS for signatures.
- **Textbook Tax Credit Campaign**
 - ⊗ The UVSS is in the process of launching a campaign to lobby the federal government to reinstate the Textbook Tax Rebate for post-secondary students which was repealed in 2016. Prior to its repeal, this tax credit offered financial relief to students across the country who were struggling to make ends meet.
 - ⊗ They want UBC GSS to sign a letter they have prepared.
 - Action:
 - It could be a great opportunity to reduce the education costs of graduate students in professional degrees.
 - The VP External will research about this issue. If the campaign is achievable and benefits graduate students, she will bring the letter to the next ACEX and Council meetings.

6.2.4 VP Students

- **Focus Group:** “We’re organizing a focus group in January to discuss collaboration and potential event ideas for off campus students. If you’re off campus and would like to participate, please contact Pouya once the meeting is over”
- **Collaboration with CWSC**
 - ⊗ We are planning 3 more writing retreats in collaboration with the Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication. We organized 2 in the fall and received positive feedback.
- **Collaboration with Graduate Pathways to Success**
 - ⊗ The first FIREtalk (Facilitated Interdisciplinary Research Exchange) was held on November 27, 2019 on Drinking Water. A FIREtalk is a mix of brief presentations, activities, and discussion, all relating to a common theme. FIREtalks are a great opportunity to:
 - share your research
 - be inspired by research in other disciplines
 - connect with graduate students who share similar interests
 - ⊗ Three students presented their works on Drinking Water followed by questions and discussions.
- **Collaboration with Counselling Services, Wellbeing and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies**
 - ⊗ The fourth session of the Support Group Series for Graduate Students was held on November 28, 2019 on Imposter Syndrome. The next one is tentatively scheduled for January 7, 2020 on Supervisory Relationships.



6.2.5 Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

6.3 COMMITTEES

6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

At its most recent meeting, the AcEx committee spent time discussing statements for both Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression which have been drafted by Ben and Mimi. This discussion will be continuing into January, with meetings currently being set up with two different individuals who both have expertise in this area. The MSP open letter was also discussed, and edits/suggestions have been given to the VP External for her review. In January, we plan to revisit the GSFA implementation, which was worked on early last year, as well as discuss a draft of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement for the GSS (again put together by Ben and Mimi).

6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- Drafted amendments in response to issues identified in Oct 7th meeting, and consulted on in October Council and during the Chairs' meeting on Nov 19th. (see minutes Nov 22)
- Finalized a portion of the amendments to Elections Policy proposed by Elections Committee, on which we have been in consultation since June (minutes Dec 4). Some amendments remain to be revised.
- Begun discussion/consultation on clarifications to the Bylaws regarding prolonged absence of the president or other executives (minutes Nov 22). Have received feedback from the President, FEOO, and chair of G&A – expect feedback from EOC. Drafted policy will be brought to Council in January/February (minutes Dec 4).
- Begun drafting a procedure for expedited correction of typographical errors in the Policy/Bylaws, as directed by July Council (minutes Nov 2 and Dec 4). Awaiting feedback from G&A committee.
- Beginning a review of executive duties as laid out by the Bylaws and Policy Manual.
- Chair participated in early-stage policy amendment inquiries:
 - Contacted the AMS to identify policies which could be used as a basis for an improved appeals procedure for committee decisions.
 - Discussed procedures for determining and filling departmental representative vacancies with the President, VP UAA, and G&A chair.
 - Consulted with GSFA Panel on improvements to the GSFA policy. Expect feedback from AcEx in January.
 - Contacted AMS and Grad Council lead reps to discuss Caucus policy.

6.3.3 Elections Committee



6.3.4 Executive Committee

- **Governance & Accountability Committee Goals**

The Executive Committee has finished reviewing the goals of the Governance & Accountability Committee and has determined that the goals have been fulfilled. The President and VP UAA have abstained from voting on this matter given their prior affiliation with the Committee.

6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- EOC has conducted and finalized executives mid term goals review.
- Inspected projects under CPIF within the centre and the progress is impressive with Green room project completed (pest control done, thorough cleaning and ready for utilization).

6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- SMART Goals: G&A is about to have their December Mega Meeting (Dec 14) to review all the SMART Goal drafts for committees, caucuses, and the FEOO.
 - 🗳️ Those who have yet to submit them are reminded that the hard deadline to do so is Dec 12. Drafts do not need to be complete or comprehensive, but should have as much information and ideas as possible.
 - 🗳️ Feedback will be sent back to committees and the revised, final versions will be submitted to Council in January.
- G&A Goals: These are still awaiting approval, but G&A is hoping to focus on supporting committees and departmental representatives to Council in 2020.
 - 🗳️ If you have feedback on how we can do this, or want to get involved, please get in touch.
- First All-Chair Meeting: G&A, in collaboration with CPC, hosted the first ever (as far as we know) All-Chairs Meeting on Nov 19! This was a meeting open to all committee, ad-hoc committee, and caucus chairs to discuss matters and struggles.
 - 🗳️ G&A received feedback on key areas chairs wanted support with, and what they felt was lacking during the transition process (or lack thereof). CPC consulted on the standing committees policies and how they could be revised and updated.
 - 🗳️ The All-Chairs followed from presentations given by G&A and CPC in the October Council.

6.3.7 House Finance Committee

6.3.8 Human Resources



6.3.9 Services Committee

6.3.10 Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee

The Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee is currently finalizing a long-list of potential themes with corresponding vision statements that would be covered in the Strat Plan. The hope is to present a long-list of themes to council in January for feedback and launch our first consultation campaign with the student body. The feedback from council and student body would then guide us to finalize on a set of themes that would guide our SWOT analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) for the strategic plan for 2021-2027. As a result, the SWOT analysis would be done more comprehensively this year - with each theme having its own SWOT analysis performed via extensive consultation with Council and relevant Committees.

6.3.11 AMS Caucus

AMS Caucus Updates:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1P_OCJh11JQvELQLh5RogVVA9TcrcHK2t

6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

6.4.1 Senators

6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives

The BoG committees were held on November 19, 22nd, 25th and 26th followed by the full Board on December 5th. You can check out the [BoG website](#) for full dockets, agendas, and documents! This cycle included conversations about tuition increases, divesting part of the endowment, the [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#), the [Inclusion Action Plan](#), the [International Strategic Plan](#), and capital projects like the Gateway Building and the Arts Student Centre. We also received a presentation from the GSS president at full Board on key grad student advocacy issues.



6.5 GSS STAFF

The GSS Office will be closed on December 16th. We will resume office hours in the new year.

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 16th 2020 at 5:30 pm

Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Nest

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Nevena Rebic was unseated from the Strategic Planning ad hoc Committee.
- Nicholas Najy was unseated as an Ordinary Member from Governance and Accountability Committee.
- Mina Rigby-Thompson was unseated as a Councillor from Academic and External Committee.
- Mollie Holmberg was unseated as an Ordinary Member from Academic and External Committee.
- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Departmental Representative of Microbiology and Immunology.
- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Councillor from the Code and Policy Committee.
- Kate Sedivy-Haley was unseated as Councillor from the Human Resources Committee.
- Faramarz Jabbarvaziri was unseated as Departmental Representative of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- Karanpreet Matharu was unseated as Departmental Representative of Civil Engineering.
- Tesha Luehr was unseated as Departmental Representative of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
- Logan Lorenz was unseated as Departmental Representative of Educational Studies.
- Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi was unseated as Departmental Representative of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Mover	Nicolas R.	Seconder:	Larissa Peck	Result	Motion Carries
:				:	



**GRADUATE
STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

December 2019 Council Agenda

December 12th, 2019 | Thea Koerner Lounge | 5:30 pm
