



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Tayo Olarewaju, Thomas Smith, Philip Wijaya, Pouya Rezaeinia, Virginia Pichler, Philip Karangu, Yi Yang, Victoria Gomez, Andrew Zang, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison (proxy Chrisitna Wiessmann), Nevena Rebic, Teesha Luehr, Temi Onifade, Alejandra Botia, Kiana Yau(proxy Diana Kim), Alireza Kamyabi, Joseph Ogbede, Tarique Benbow, Nafise Faridi Rad, Larissa Peck, Abdullah Hassan, Sara Hosseinirad, Josef Garen (Negar G.), Jackson Schumacher, Arash Shadkam, Gloria Mellesmoen (Adriana Osa Gomez del Campo), Jordan Hamden, Arwa Nemir, Mollie Holmberg, Lihwen Hsu (proxy Aaron Loewen), Jenny Lee, Nicolas Romualdi, Jin Wen, Sarah Park, Arezoo M., Nicholas Najy ( Proxy Kate Sedivy-Haley), Alexa Tanner, Judith Valerie Enger ( proxy Kurt Ward-Theiss), Mostafa Conny Lin ( Speaker), Taran Dhillon ( minutes taker)

### Absent:

**Regrets:** Farah Deeba, Eric Frieling, Negar Ghahramani, Samantha Peng, Arielle Kersey, Ryan Xuejun Ji, Judith Valerie Engel, Skicy Liu, Mina Rigby-Thompson, Megha Kalia, Karanpreet M., Raphael Deberdt, Airu Ji, Oluwakemi Oke, Yangfan Zhang

### Quorum: Councillors

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

**The meeting was called to order at 5 : 34 pm.**

### AGENDA ADOPTION

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

**Mover:** Larissa Peck

**Second:** Alvionne Gardner-Harrison

**Result:** Motion Carried

FOR (24): TARIQUE BENBOW, ALEJANDRA BOTIA, NAFISE FARIDI RAD, ALVIONNE GARDNER-HARRISON, JOSEF GAREN, JORDAN HAMDEN, SARA HOSSEINIRAD, LIHWEN HSU, ALIREZA KAMYABI, PHILIP KARANGU, JENNY LEE, TEESHA LUEHR, AREZOO M., GLORIA MELLESMOEN, ARWA NEMIR, TEMI ONIFADE, SARAH PARK, LARISSA PECK, NEVENA REBIC, NICOLAS ROMUALDI, ARASH SHADKAM, ALEXA TANNER, PHILIP WIJAYA, ANDREW ZANG

### TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**President:** We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. But not just focusing on our own history of misappropriation and rather think that teaching and learning has been taking place on this land from time immemorial and not only for 112 years that UBC has been here. Today, I would like us to reflect on that fact that we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

## 1 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

### 1.1 IN CAMERA MATTER

**Group responsible:** GSS President

**Time:** 5 minutes

WHEREAS the GSS President would like to update the GSS Board on a matter that cannot yet be discussed in public, as it would damage the GSS and AMS ability to carry out their duties.

BIRT the GSS Council will move in camera.

\*The speaker was invited by the President to stay

**Mover:** Nicolas R.

**Seconders:** Larissa Peck

**Result:** motion carried

**For (28):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Alexa Tanner, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Abstained:** Pouya Rezaeinia

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 COUNCIL MINUTES

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

- January 23rd, 2020 Council

**Mover:** Jordan H.

**Seconders:** Tarique B.

**Result:** motion carried

No discussion

**For (11):** Tarique Benbow, Josef Garen, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Teesha Luehr, Larissa Peck, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Alexa Tanner, Andrew Zang



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

**Abstained:** Tayo Olarewaju

## 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>		<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	January 13th, 2020 February 4th, 2020
<b>Code &amp; Policy Committee:</b>	January 10th, 2020	<b>Services Committee:</b>	November 14th, 2019 December 5th, 2019
<b>Elections Committee:</b>		<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	December 12th, 2019 January 22nd, 2020 January 30th, 2020
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	January 13th, 2020	<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	January 15th, 2020 January 30th, 2020
<b>Executive Oversight Committee:</b>	December 4th, 2019	<b>Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee:</b>	

**Mover:** Philip K.

**Seconder:** Nicolas R.

**Result:** motion carries(spl res)

For (26): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**no discussions**

## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

Name	Department
Thomas Smith	Institute for the Ocean and Fisheries



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

**Mover:** Nicolas R.

**Seconded:** Philip K.

**Result:** motions carried

For (29): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang

## 3.2 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	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External		Councillor	0
	Ayush Suhane( nominated by Larissa Peck)	Ordinary Member	1
Code & Policy	Thomas smith	Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	2
Elections		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	2
Executive Oversight		Councillor	0
	Kate S. (nominated by Philip)	Ordinary Member	4
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	2
House Finance		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
Human Resources		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	0
Services		Councillor	1



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

		Ordinary Member	<b>1</b>
Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee		Councillor	<b>0</b>
		Ordinary Member	<b>1</b>

**Mover:** Jin Wen      **Second:** Nicolas Romualdi      **Result:** motion carried

Vote:

For (35): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

## 3.2 Seating of Committee Chair

**BIRT** Kate S. be seated as the Chair of Governance & Accountability Committee

**BIFRT** Jordan be seated as the Chair of the Code and Policy Committee

**Mover:** Tarique Benbow      **Second:** Philip K.      **Result:** motions carried

For (23): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Abdullah Hassan, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Arash Shadkam, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen

**Victoria:** I will be graduating soon, so I unseat myself as the chair of the G&A committee and Kate should have accepted this seating.

**Tayo:** What about the current deputy chair of G&A Committee?

**Speaker:** I clarify that deputy chair of G&A Committee is elected by the committee

**Mover :** Philip Karangu      **Second:** Nicolas Romualdi      **Vote:** motion carries

For (32): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi,



Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Nicholas Najy, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

## 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 February 2021:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Reproductive and Development Science Student Organization	Dwayne Tucker
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association	Doris Metcalfe
School of Journalism Students' Association	Samantha Peng

**Mover:** Alexa Tanner **Seconder:** Nicolas R. **Result:** motion carried

For (32): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Andrew Zang

### 4.2 EXECUTIVE VACANCIES, INCLUDING ABSENCES

**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw 8.4: Executive Vacancies, including Absences

**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** Revision Form - Bylaw 8\_4 ExecutiveVacancies.docx

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the current policy on Executive Vacancies is unclear, and the provisions for absence of the President have caused multiple conflicts in the history of the GSS,



**WHEREAS** EOC, G&A, and the President have been consulted on the suggested Bylaw amendment throughout the drafting process and have made no objections,

**WHEREAS** Council was consulted regarding this Bylaw amendment in January.

**BIRT** the following be included as a motion in the 2020 AGM:

**WHEREAS** the current policy on Executive Vacancies is unclear,

**WHEREAS** the poorly-defined ability of the VP Academic & University Affairs (VP UAA) to perform the duties of the President in the event of their prolonged absence of the President has caused multiple conflicts in the history of the GSS,

**WHEREAS** there should be a contingency for what occurs when both the President and the VP UAA are unavailable,

**WHEREAS** the proposed procedure has been extensively consulted with the President and relevant oversight bodies of the GSS,

**BIRT** Bylaw 8.4 and Bylaw 8.5.4.a be repealed and replaced with the 8.4 and 8.5.4.a included in Revision Form – Bylaw 8.4 ExecutiveVacancies.docx, and Bylaw 7.6.9 be adopted as described in Revision Form – Bylaw 8.4 ExecutiveVacancies.docx.

**Mover:** Jackson Schumacher

**Seconder:** Alireza K.

**Result:** motion carried

#### Discussion/Motivation:

**kate:** We brought this issue for consultation in January Council meeting. In the absence of the President, the VPUAA can take over the duties of the President. However, there is little mentioned in the guide regarding when the President can be considered absent. We went through the entire policy manual to clarify and provide for a mechanism by which the immediate ability to determine whether the President is absent or not. So, instead of the VPUAA potentially deciding whether the President is absent or not on their own, we now have proper procedure that goes through. I am happy to answer any questions regarding this change in the policy.

**Speaker: \*This is a special resolution (needs 2/3rd votes)**

For (30): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

#### 4.3 AMENDING POLICY MANUAL AND BYLAWS

**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw 2, Bylaw 13, and Policy 1.2: Amending Policy Manual and Bylaws



**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** Bylaws\_2\_13\_AmendmentsProcedure.docx, Revision Form – Bylaws 2 and 13 - AmendmentsProcedure.docx

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the Policy Manual and Bylaws contain typographical errors,

**WHEREAS** correcting these errors, where they do not affect meaning, should not require as stringent an approval process as a change in the meaning of the text, but should still include checks to ensure the process is not abused,

**WHEREAS** Council in its July meeting directed CPC to draft a Bylaw amendment to this effect,

**WHEREAS** furthermore, the requirements for providing 7 days notice of a Policy Manual amendment has in the past prevented policy amendments from being brought expediently to Council,

**WHEREAS** in the past 15 months we have received no comments from the general membership on proposed policy amendments as a result of this notice,

**WHEREAS** requiring notice of the policy amendment to be included in the Council agenda, thus prohibiting policy amendments to be made from the floor, is sufficient to ensure these amendments are properly considered,

**WHEREAS** temporary amendments and suspensions of policy are an emergency procedure and should not require notice,

**BIRT** the motion in the document Bylaws\_2\_13\_AmendmentsProcedure.docx be included in the agenda for the 2020 AGM.

**Mover:** Larissa Peck

**Seconder:** Tarique Benbow

**Result:** motion carries (\*spl res)

**For (32):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Joseph Ogbede, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Kate:** We are giving procedures to correct the bylaw typos. There are several layers here that we noticed. We believe that this is sufficient and the G&A committee is sufficient in providing enough notice to make policy amendments and the flexibility to change things. In the past requirements, we emailed to the students before making a policy amendment but this has proven difficult in getting certain policy amendments passed in a timely fashion.

**Speaker:** This item is going to AGM meeting agenda

## 4.4 BYLAW: EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw: Executive Elections





**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** None

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** it is necessary that the Bylaws contain a procedure for preventing a conflict of interest in the event that a Financial and Executive Oversight Officer wishes to run or a different executive office before the end of their term as FEOO,

**WHEREAS** CPC has determined that, due to the timing with which this issue has been brought to the committee's attention, there has been insufficient opportunity to perform the consultation necessary to propose a finalized standard,

**WHEREAS** a minimum standard is still required to prevent severe conflicts,

**BIRT** the following motion be included in the 2020 AGM:

**WHEREAS** the Bylaws currently provide no procedure for preventing a conflict of interest in the event that a Financial and Executive Oversight Officer wishes to run or a different executive office before the end of their term as FEOO,

**WHEREAS** in the event of a resignation, a current executive might be presented with the opportunity for a second office, and this should also be prevented,

**WHEREAS** the following mandates a minimum standard for these situations,

**BIRT** Bylaws 8.2.8 and 8.2.9 be adopted as follows:

8.2.8 No person shall hold more than one executive office simultaneously. This does not preclude an executive temporarily performing the duties of another executive.

8.2.9 In the event that the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer runs for a different executive position, and does not secure the position, Governance and Accountability Committee shall report to Council within three months, and make recommendations as appropriate, regarding any conflict or lack thereof between the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer and their former opponent.

**BIFRT** Council directs CPC to produce further guidelines for practices to be followed in the event that the FEOO runs for a different executive office, to be ready for AGM 2021.

**Mover:** Arwa Nemir

**Seconded:** Alireza Kamyabi

**Result:** motion carried

**For (30):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Pouya Rezaeinia, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Against (1):** Tayo Olarewaju

**Kate:** It was CPC's opinion to have guidelines to have some standards. We are thus recommending this to be added to the AGM agenda to have a minimum standard. It was the opinion of the CPC committee.



**Alireza:** As a member of EOC and G&A committees, I support this motion. As Kate said we need to set at least minimum standards.

## 4.5 COUNCILLOR TRAINING PROCEDURES

**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw 7.2.4: Councillor Training Procedures

**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** Bylaw\_7\_2\_4\_CouncillorTraining.docx, Revision form – 7.2.4 CouncillorTraining.docx

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** an online councillor training course, which is in development and will be ready in time for AGM 2020, will provide a simpler and more consistent mechanism for training Councillors than the current practice,

**WHEREAS** in-person orientation, and particularly the formal Councillor orientation sessions, still provide valuable training for Councillors,

**WHEREAS** a combination of initial online training followed by a formal orientation session provides the best combination of allowing new Councillors to assume their roles promptly and ensuring they receive quality training,

**BIRT** the motion included in Bylaw\_7\_2\_4\_CouncillorTraining.docx be included as a motion in the 2020 AGM.

**Mover:** Alireza K.

**Seconder:** Larissa Peck

**Result:** motion carried

**Motivation:**

**Kate:** Basic motivation is, most of you probably had a one-on-one orientation with the President or someone delegated by the President. This is inefficient. Our training is very inconsistent. Online training is found to be a more consistent way of orientation. One you are seated as councillor, now you will be required to complete the next online training session. The general assumption is that first you need to complete an online training before getting seated as the councillor and after that you are required to attend the in-person training session that will be held three times a year. If you do not complete these trainings then the councillors can be unseated.

**Alexa:** Is there any tracking arrangement.

**President :** yes

**For (29):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Andrew Zang

**Abstained(1):** Philip Wijaya



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## 4.6 BYLAW 3.10 AND OTHERS REGARDING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

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**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw 3.10 and others regarding rights of members

**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** Bylaw\_3\_10\_RightsMembers.docx, Revision Form - Bylaw 3\_10 etc Rights of Members.docx

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver represents and advocates on behalf of UBC Graduate Students,

**WHEREAS** it is appropriate that only current UBC graduate students (Ordinary Members) be voting members of the Society,

**WHEREAS** the Bylaws suggest in some ways that only Ordinary Members should be voting members, but this is not clear,

**WHEREAS** other clarifications regarding the rights of members should be made to be consistent within the Bylaws and Policy Manual,

**BIRT** the following motion be included in the agenda for AGM 2020:

**WHEREAS** the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver represents and advocates on behalf of all UBC Graduate Students,

**WHEREAS** it is appropriate that only current UBC graduate students (Ordinary Members) be voting members of the Society with the right to vote in AGM and referenda and to propose items for the AGM,

**WHEREAS** this should be clarified in the Bylaws,

**WHEREAS** to be consistent with the Bylaws and internally, the Policy Manual should state that all members may attend Council meetings and that only Ordinary Members may act as (voting) proxies in a Committee meeting,

**BIRT** Bylaw 3.10, Bylaw 5.1.3, Bylaw 5.2.1, Policy 3.1.2, Policy 3.2.2, and Policy 7.1.3 be repealed and replaced with the respective text included in Bylaw\_3\_10\_RightsMembers.docx.

**Mover:** Nicolas R

**Secunder:** Sarah Park

**Result:** motion carried

**For (24):** Tarique Benbow, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Questions:**

**Alireza:** Are ordinary members considered as members of the society?

**Kate:** Yes. This applied to all classes of members. Only that they will not be classified as the voting members.



**Arash:** I request a quick clarification. As per policy 3.2.1, are the AMS representatives of this council included in this description?

**Kate:** Yes, the AMS reps will be considered as ordinary members.

**President:** There is a confusion. We are not discussing membership in the council, we are discussing membership in the society. All members present here are members of the society. The intention is to prevent other kind of members such as honorary members overturning the bylaws during the AGM.

**Arash:** One other question. bylaw 5.2.1 the Special General Meeting will be called by the president. Curious about that number 10 %? Because 10 percent should be 1000 students as per the current number of grad students in UBC. Just trying to understand the rationale behind the number.

**prez:** That stems from the BC societies act, that is not arbitrary. That is where that point of reference is taken from. As per the numbers required for the referendum, I will ask a question to the chair of the CPC committee.

**Kate:** Yes, 600 students is the quorum required for a referendum. Further clarification about that line. The change in that line is under consideration for correcting a typo.

**Arash:** I am super psyched. In the referendum section of the GSS bylaws it says only 100 members are needed to call a referendum. But what I am hearing is 600 students.

**President:** It is two different thresholds. Threshold for calling a referendum is 100 students, the threshold for quorum for a referendum is 600 students.

## 4.7 BYLAW 14: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

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**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw 14: Strategic Framework

**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** Revision Form - Bylaw 14 StrategicPlan.docx

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the Bylaws describing the Strategic Framework do not reflect the current conception of the Strategic Plan, or the existence of Governance & Accountability Committee,

**WHEREAS** the Strategic Plan is a separate document from the Policy Manual, and can appropriately be distributed on the website,

**BIRT** the following motion be included in the agenda for the 2020 AGM:

**WHEREAS** the Bylaws refer to a "Strategic Framework," but Council believes that it is more appropriate that we have a "Strategic Plan," a term which implies a higher level of actionable detail,

**WHEREAS** the Strategic Plan can best be distributed on the GSS website,



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

**BIRT** all references to the "Strategic Framework" in Bylaw 8.5.2.i and Bylaw 14 be changed to the "Strategic Plan," and Bylaws 14.3 and 14.4 be revised to read as follows:

14.3 The Strategic Plan shall be published on the Society's website.

14.4 The President, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, the Governance and Accountability Committee, and the Society's staff, shall be responsible for ensuring that the provisions of the Strategic Plan are implemented.

**Mover:** Nicolas R. **Seconded:** Gloria M. **Result:** motion carried

**For (18):** Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Lihwen Hsu, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Virginia Pichler, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner

**Abstained(1):** Nicolas Romualdi

## Discussions:

**Pouya:** Will the President be the main person responsible?

**President:** This exact question was posed to the chair of CPC. The bottom line is that in the long term we are progressing from a President centric to the G&A centric Strat Plan committee.

**Speaker:** Point of privilege, If I am too fast please let me know.

**Arezoo:** I missed voting for one or two items. So, please slow down.

**Speaker:** I will slow down.

## 4.8 EXECUTIVES ON EOC

**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw 9.1.2 and 8.5.2.d.vi: Executives on EOC

**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** Revision Form – Bylaw 9.1.2 ExecutiveOversight.docx

### Motion:

**WHEREAS** there is currently no explicit restriction against an executive other than the FEOO sitting on the Executive Oversight Committee,

**WHEREAS** an executive other than the FEOO sitting on EOC would be highly inappropriate and should be firmly prohibited,

**BIRT** the following motion be included in the 2020 AGM:

**WHEREAS** there is currently no explicit restriction against an executive other than the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer sitting on the Executive Oversight Committee,



**WHEREAS** an executive other than the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer sitting on the Executive Oversight Committee would be a clear conflict of interest and should be firmly prohibited,

**WHEREAS** furthermore, Bylaw 8.5.2 makes the President a member of every committee, without excluding Executive Oversight Committee,

**BIRT** Bylaw 9.1.2 be revised to read: "Membership and terms of references for the Society's standing committees shall be outlined in the Policy Manual, except that no executive other than the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer shall sit on the Executive Oversight Committee."

**BIFRT** Bylaw 8.5.2.d.vi (regarding President's duties) be revised to read "being an ex officio member of every committee, taskforce, and working group of the Society, except the Executive Oversight Committee; "

**Mover:** Tayo O.    **Seconder:** Sara H.    **Result:** motion carried

**For (25):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Josef Garen, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Jackson Schumacher, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Abstained:** Nicolas Romualdi

**President:** If anyone thinks/feels that I have a conflict of interest, please ask me to leave.

**Kate:** This is an instance that I am happy to point out that there is also a potential conflict of interest with the President being the ex-officio of the elections committee and a circumstance where the President is contesting for the elections. So, I resolve to move to amend this agenda and add elections committee

**Tayo:** I suggest that we need to have discussions/consultations before we move to amend this motion

**President:** Point of Order, the motion was moved so we cannot have discussion

**Seconder for adding these three words:** Larissa Peck

**speaker:** Any objection to adding the three words?

**Kate:** I think Tayo was objecting to adding the 3 words to the agenda.

**President:** Sometimes it happens that I have to disagree with the chair of the CPC. It seems that the intent is to prohibit the president from sitting on the elections committee. This prevents only seating and voting in that committee. The president can still interact with the committee. I have delegated my power to the speaker and chair of CPC to address this, so there is currently not a Conflict of Interest.

**Sara:** If not, can we go back to the CPC committee for more discussion?

**Philip:** The president is also the chair of the executive committee. Given that we need to always consult the other committees, I think this will not be in best interest to exclude the President from these committees.



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

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**Kate:** I am not sure how is it procedural? The main effect will be removal of the president during the current elections.

**Kate:** I suggest removing the red line (three words) and moving back to the original motion. I move to rescind.

**Speaker:** I need a seconder to rescind the amendment.

Secunder: Nicholas R.

**Vote:** we are voting to remove elections from the main motion **Motion carried.**

**Speaker:** we are back to the main motion.

**speaker:** Seeing no further discussions

**For (28):** Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Nevena Rebic, Jackson Schumacher, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Abstained:** Nicolas Romualdi, Thomas Smith

**Vote: motion carried.**

**Speaker:** The item is going to AGM agenda

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## 4.9 WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL

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**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Subject description:** Bylaw 7.6.8: Written Resolutions of Council

**Proposed objective:** Approve an agenda item for AGM 2020

**Relevant materials:** Revision Form - Bylaw 7.6.8 Written Resolutions.docx

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the authority to propose written resolutions for Council outside of a Council meeting should be reserved for the Chair of Council (ie the President),

**WHEREAS** it should be clarified that email constitutes a form of written consent,

**WHEREAS** further clarifications should be made based on the provisions of the BC Societies' Act,

**BIRT** the following motion be included in the agenda for the 2020 AGM:

**WHEREAS** the procedure for making decisions outside of a formal Council meeting should be clarified based on the needs of the GSS and the provisions of provincial law regulating Societies,



# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

**WHEREAS** only the President, as the person responsible for Meetings of Council, should have the ability to address business to Council outside of a formal meeting,

**BIRT** Bylaw 7.6.8 be revised to read: "Any ordinary resolution distributed to all voting Councillors by the President, consented to in writing by two thirds of all voting Councillors, and placed in the minutes of Council is as valid and effective as if regularly passed at a meeting of Council. Email is considered a valid form of obtaining written consent."

**Mover:** Abdullah Hassan

**Seconded:** Philip K.

**Result:** motion carried

**For (32):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Josef Garen, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Philip Wijaya, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Abstained:** Pouya Rezaeinia

**speaker:** Any motivations for this motion?

**Arash:** This is time to ask questions? I do not understand this motion. How is this different?

**Kate:** Couple of clarifications here. The current procedure in the policy is saying that any resolution must be distributed amongst the councillors by anyone, signed, dated and witnessed by 2/3rd votes of the councillors and is valid and effective. What we are doing is that to clarify ordinary resolutions. This should be allowed by B.C. Societies Act which says that ordinary resolutions need to be voted by 2/3rds or by written agreement. In the G&A committee it was agreed that if there is no potential opportunity for debate for these motions then the bar should be higher where people can ask questions and debate. We also want to place proper channels of communication. In case a student wants to propose a motion, they should ask the President to circulate the motion via email to go through and the last one is to clarify that email works and for our purposes it is a valid form of writing. This should be allowed by Societies Act as valid. Does that resolve the questions asked by Arash?

**Arash:** Yes,

## 4.10 GSFA FEE

**Group responsible:** GSS President - VP UAA - FEOO

**Subject description:** Creation of a Separate Fee to Support the GSFA

**Proposed objective:** Introduce an Item to the 2020 AGM

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the GSS began administering a Graduate Student Assistant Fund (GSFA) in 2019, and

**WHEREAS** the GSFA's purpose is to provide assistance to graduate students who face unexpected financial hardship, as described in Policy 15, and





**WHEREAS** currently, funding for the GSFA is allocated from the GSS operational budget, under the recommendation of the Vice President University and Academic Affairs (VP UAA), subject to review and approval by the House Finance Committee (HF) and the GSS Council, and

**WHEREAS** this funding structure represents a severe risk to the continuity of the fund.

**BIRT** that a motion be created at the AGM with the above WHEREAS clauses, and the following as a BIRT clause:

**BIRT** a direct annual fee of \$2.00 be created for members of the GSS effective immediately, to be collected and reserved for funding the Graduate Student Financial Aid fund. The fee shall be adjusted annually according to CPI starting from the year after the implementation of the fee.

**BIFRT** VPUAA will prepare a presentation to support the motion at the AGM.

**Mover:** Alvionne Gardner-Harrison **Seconders:** Jackson S. **Result:** motion carried

**Motivation by the President:** The fund was established in my very first council meeting and the funding was allocated. There is a fundamental risk to this fund. This is currently being funded solely through our own budget. I do not think it is a huge ask. Also procedurally this should be perfectly fine.

**Arezo:** I want a correction. This funding has been for a while in GSS but the fact is that in 2017-2018 we had to stop that for the financial difficulty we had. I agree this is good practice though.

**President:** I do not want to be misleading. I think you are talking about the GSS emergency fund.

**Christina:** clarify, are all the fees automatically adjusted every year according to the CPI Canada Index? If yes, then I want to amend this motion. I am okay with Nicolas to move and amend it.

**President:** Please add- "to be adjusted by CPI starting from the year after the implementation" to the motion.

**Kate:** The wording should be- "adjusted annually according to CPI starting from the year after the implementation of the fee."

**Amendment Moved by:** Nicolas R. **Seconders:** Sarah Park **Result:** Motion Carried

**Speaker: Let us vote to add this amendment to main motion:**

**For (31):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Temi Onifade, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Jackson Schumacher, Arash Shadkam, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Jin Wen, Yi Yang, Kiana Yau, Andrew Zang

**Discussion:**

**Kate:** I was consulted as the chair of CPC committee however, the committee has not approved that. I do think that it is a good idea.



**Arash:** Thankyou. After hearing some of the arguments I am glad that GSS has a surplus budget. We already have the AMS financial assistance fund. We technically already have access to that money. Why aren't we using that fund? What is the difference between AMS and GSS fund when we pay for both these organizations. Why do not we bring this question in referendum? That is the procedure in AMS and it will be a better medium to decide this question.

**President:** Thank you for sharing your concerns but, we are following our bylaws. How the AMS administers their financial aid is out of our control. We do have applications for funding but we cannot meet the full needs currently.

**Pouya:** I have two questions. They are same as Arezoo's questions. We do not know how much money is used for graduate students out of the AMS financial assistance fund.

**President:** I hope that the graduate students will understand the necessity of this fund.

**Sarah:** A quick friendly amendment. it should be read as graduate student financial aid and not assistance and just to add that in a lot of cases it requires a letter of recommendation to apply for this fund.

**Sara:** It is not clear to me, why we are asking for this money?

**Victoria:** The G&A committee agreed with this concept but we did not vote for it. it is only an additional benefit for the students.

**Xanja:** It says a lot to me. I am finding that currently I am falling through a lot of cracks financially. There are so many ways that I am excluded. This is a wonderful fund in my understanding.

**Alexa:** We are telling other people not to raise the fees but we raise our own fees. This looks contradictory.

**Tayo:** Most of my comments have been addressed in bylaw 3.9

**Speaker:** My job here is to make sure that our discussion is focussed.

**Alexa:** I think AMS is important for this conversation

**Speaker:** Let us do a vote,, if you vote out, I will not rule out AMS discussion

**Vote: for 12, against 16, abstain 1..**

Motion fails . Thus, the speaker can rule out mention of AMS in our discussions

**Tayo:** I would also like to address the President's comments. more info must be given to us for making a more informed decision.

**Jackson:** Most of the people there have no issues with raising it as AGM . There is no harm in letting the students decide it. We should just let the student body decide.



**Alireza:** Our bylaws do not necessarily say this. I ask the President why we cannot do this as a referendum?

**President:** I did not intend to say this. AMS does not function effectively.

**President:** Jackson made the ultimate point that I wanted to make. I don't think there is any harm if we bring this to the AGM in March.

**Arezoo:** Several members brought an interesting point.

**Speaker:** sorry, we cannot talk about the AMS.

**Arezoo:** What happens to students if they enter into their graduate studies. I do not think it will harm anybody.

**Kate:** I would like to move to amend. The VPUAA will prepare a presentation to support the motion.

**seconders:** Nicolas

**Victoria:** I am in favour of having a presentation at AGM. I read bylaws and there is nothing that stops them from going for a referendum after it fails in AGM. I call the Question.

**Speaker:** Vote

**Alireza:** Can we defeat the call the question?

**Speaker:** No, you cannot.

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## 4.11 COLLECTION OF CANDIDATE STATEMENTS AND PHOTOS FOR ADVERTISING ELECTIONS

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**Group responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, Electoral Officer

**Subject description:** Collection of candidate statements and photos for advertising elections

**Proposed objective:** Amend Policy

**Relevant materials:** Policy Revision Form - 12.4 ElectionsCandidateAdvertising.docx

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** GSS Strategic Plan 3.2 Goal E identifies the need to increase the visibility, accessibility, and participation of the GSS Elections,

**WHEREAS** advertising candidates on channels such as the newsletter and social media will increase visibility,

**WHEREAS** the names and photographs of executives are already published on the GSS website, so it is reasonable to require that candidates for executive office consent to having their photographs published online,

**BIRT** Policy 12.4.13 be adopted to read: "Elections Committee may require Candidates to submit one or more brief personal statements and a photograph, for purposes of advertising the election and informing voters regarding candidates. These materials may be published on GSS online communications channels and on the ballot, provided that candidates for the same office are featured equally in such communications."



**BIFRT** current 12.4.13-15 be renumbered 12.4.14-16.

**Mover:** Arwa Nemir      **Seconders:** Alvionne Gardner-Harrison      **Result:** motion carried(\*spl res)

**For (22):** Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Alvionne Gardner-Harrison, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Yi Yang, Andrew Zang

**Abstained:** Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Sarah Park

**Kate:** The elections committee has no objections to the current elections process.

## 4.12 GSS EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION POSITION STATEMENTS

**Group responsible:** GSS VP UAA and AcEx Committee

**Subject description:** GSS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Position Statement

**Proposed objective:** Approval of the Position Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

**Relevant materials:** [EDI Briefing Note](#)

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** the GSS works to support all its members regardless of cultural, racial, ethnic and sexual identities, but there is no comprehensive document describing our institutional commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion or providing a framework for action,

**WHEREAS** the Office of the VP University and Academic Affairs and AcEx committee have collaborated to conduct appropriate research and consultation with various bodies on campus in preparing this statement

**WHEREAS** the document in question and its briefing note has been circulated to the society and its members, seven (7) days in advance of this motion as per Policy 14.3.1

**BIRT** the GSS Council adopts by special resolution the proposed Position Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, which will upon adoption be included in the Policy Manual.

**Mover:** Tarique      **Seconders:** philip      **Result:** motion carried (\*spl res)

**For (28):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Pouya Rezaeinia, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Yi Yang, Andrew Zang, Nevena Rebic

**Victoria:** I want to congratulate her on her hard work on this..

**kate:** This statement is also posted on the GSS website. It was shared 7 days before today's February council meeting.



**Alireza:** It is a well document motion.I would like to see this statement be adopted

## 4.12 KNOCKOUT INTEREST CAMPAIGN

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**Group responsible:** VP External

**Supporting Documents:** Link to open letter: <https://www.knockoutinterest.ca/>

**Motion:**

**WHEREAS** The Knockout interest Campaign is a federal campaign aiming to eliminate interest on federal student loans, which is started by BCFS. Student organizations such as SFSS and the UBC AMS as well as students' unions in Alberta and Saskatchewan have endorsed the campaign. With this momentum, combined with the fact that two federal parties promised free education in their election platforms, and the federal government being in a minority situation, it is the best time to work with other student organizations on this topic!

**BIRT** The GSS council endorse the campaign by authorizing VP External to sign the open letter on behalf of the GSS.

**Mover:** Nicolas R.

**Seconded:** Jackson S.

**Result:**

**For (27):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Nafise Faridi Rad, Victoria Gomez, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Larissa Peck, Virginia Pichler, Nevena Rebic, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Thomas Smith, Alexa Tanner, Yi Yang, Andrew Zang

**Sara motivates:** For Clarification, BCFS is a provincial lobbying federation. SFSS is SFU undergraduate student society. we would be campaigning with BCSF on this matter.

**Nicolas:** I would like to congratulate the GSS VP external and VPUAA for being accurate on these matters to the council and would ask all of you to vote in favour of this motion. The membership of the biggest graduate student society i.e. UBC GSS in the province does matter.

**Jackson:** I propose a friendly amendment to the motion. At the end of BIRT , please add GSS to the motion

**Tarique:** At least 16 percent of students use loans to support their doctoral studies.

## 4.13 G&A OVERSIGHT 2020

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**Group responsible:** Governance & Accountability Committee

**Presentation time:** 10 minutes

**Subject description:** Presentation of options for oversight to G&A goals for 2020-2021

**Proposed objective:** Council chooses oversight option for G&A for this year.

**Relevant materials:** [G&A Oversight](#)



**WHEREAS** the Governance & Accountability was struck as a Standing Committee as a result of the 2018 referendum, and

**WHEREAS** the GSS 2017-21 Strategic Plan establishes objectives for the structure of the oversight system of the GSS for all executive positions and standing committees except for the Governance & Accountability Committee, and

**WHEREAS** the Terms of Reference of the Governance & Accountability Committee require the Committee to propose to Council oversight mechanisms for itself, and

**WHEREAS** the Executive Committee was the oversight body for the G&A in 2019,

**BIRT** the GSS Council assigns the responsibility of oversight of the Governance & Accountability goal setting and goal progress review to Executive Committee.

**BIFRT** the Executive Committee shall report to Council on the setting of G&A goals in the regular February March Council meeting and on progress at the same meetings as the Governance & Accountability presents on the other Standing Committees and Caucuses.

**seconded by Sarah Park**

**Seconder: Philip Karangu**

**vote:** motion carried

For (20): Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Victoria Gomez, Abdullah Hassan, Mollie Holmberg, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Virginia Pichler, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Yi Yang, Andrew Zang

Abstained: Arezoo M.

**Discussion:**

**Tayo :** Question for outgoing G&A committee chair. Your concerns and suggestions for having another body overseeing G&A committee?

**Victoria:** In my opinion, once you start involving external bodies, it becomes out of our control.

**speaker:** reminding you all councillors are by default the overseers of the council.

**Vote:** motion carries

**For (14):** Tarique Benbow, Abdullah Hassan, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Tayo Olarewaju, Virginia Pichler, Jackson Schumacher, Andrew Zang



**Abstained (3):** Alejandra Botia, Victoria Gomez, Arezoo M., Nicolas Romualdi

## 4.13 Providing Strategic Plan Update at AGM

**WHEREAS** the G&A Terms of Reference (8.9.2.f) state that G&A must “provide progress reports at the GSS AGM and post updates at least annually on the GSS website”,

**BIRT** an item be added to the agenda for the AGM 2020 as follows:

**Presentation/Topic Title:** GSS Strategic Plan 2017-2021 Update

**Proposed objective:** Inform GSS members on the progress of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan

**Group responsible:** Governance & Accountability Committee

**Presentation time:** 5 minutes

**Mover and seconder:** Alireza K. and Nicolas R.

**Motivated by** Victoria

**Vote:** 23/1 abstain, motion carries

**For (23):** Tarique Benbow, Alejandra Botia, Jordan Hamden, Abdullah Hassan, Sara Hosseinirad, Lihwen Hsu, Alireza Kamyabi, Philip Karangu, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Arezoo M., Gloria Mellesmoen, Nicholas Najy, Arwa Nemir, Tayo Olarewaju, Sarah Park, Virginia Pichler, Nicolas Romualdi, Jackson Schumacher, Arash Shadkam, Thomas Smith, Yi Yang, Andrew Zang

**Abstained:** Victoria Gomez

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 2021-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

**Group responsible:** Strategic Planning Ad-Hoc Committee

**Presentation time:** 15 minutes

**Subject description:** Update on the development of the upcoming 2021-2026 Strategic Plan

**Proposed objective:** To collect feedback from Council on a long-list of proposed themes for the Strategic Plan and to adopt a framework for consultation with the student body-at-large

**Relevant materials:**

Alireza presented:

**Questions:**

Thomas: Can you go to the list of 12 ( slide 6 and 7). One thing I would like to point out is , there are certain ones such as reconciliation, which should not be put into this democratic process. Just a comment.

Alireza: Some of these are actually part of society's constitution.



Arash: Thank you for presenting. Much appreciated. I will want to touch on the surveys. What are some of the steps that you are thinking about, esp when we have short answer questions. What data are you anticipating to get?

Alireza: Great question. Main thing is our main question- it asks students to rank..priority for them.

Victoria: Our two committees are connected.

Jackson: I cede my time.

Andrew Zhang: I call the quorum.

Speaker: We have only 16 councillors, we cannot make decisions. Are we okay adjourning now?

Speaker: I see no objection.

## 5.2 FINANCIAL REPORT

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

**Presentation time:** 10 minutes

**Subject description:** Financial Updates

**Proposed objective:** Update

**Relevant materials:** [Financial Report Presentation](#)

## 5.3 G&A OVERSIGHT 2020

**Group responsible:** Governance & Accountability Committee

**Presentation time:** 10 minutes

**Subject description:** Presentation of options for oversight to G&A goals for 2020-2021

**Proposed objective:** Council chooses oversight option for G&A for this year.

**Relevant materials:** [G&A Oversight](#)

## 5.4 FINAL 2020 SMART GOALS

**Group responsible:** Governance & Accountability Committee

**Presentation time:** 10 minutes

**Subject description:** Final full report on 2020 SMART Goals for committees and caucuses.

**Proposed objective:** Present final report.

**Relevant materials:** [SMART Goals](#)

## 5.5 GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE UPDATE

**Group responsible:** GSS President





**Presentation time:** 10 minutes

**Subject description:** Update Council on the progress on the GLC and the preliminary stage of the MOU.

**Proposed objective:** Update.

**Relevant materials:**

## 6 MATTERS TO NOTE

### 6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Craft Untapped-Meet your candidates on February 27th
- Tax Workshop on March 3rd
- Lunch and Learn Nutrition on March 4th
- Headshots on March 11th
- Wellbeing Day on March 25th

### 6.2 EXECUTIVES

#### 6.2.1 President:

- **Affordability Advocacy**

Great progress has been made in the last month. Unfortunately, I am not able to provide more details at this time.

- **Budget Consultation**

The UBC Budget Student Leadership Consultation took place on Feb 12th. As previously discussed with the AMS, both the AMS and GSS supported initiatives that focused on career development and student health and wellbeing. Feedback on the process was also sent to the Provost and VP Finance to improve the consultation process next year. Overall, we felt that there was an honest and open engagement, and we were given enough information in a timely manner to provide feedback effectively.

- **New Lunch & Learn Events**

The surplus in the President's events budget, which has been the result of successful asks for sponsorship, has been put towards new Lunch & Learn events. Notably, a L&L on the experiences of minorities in graduate school has been scheduled in collaboration with the London Imperial College and UBC EDI.

- **Tuition Surplus Allocation (~7.9 MCAD)**

The Board has requested the VPS, AMS and GSS to explore alternative uses of the tuition surplus that disburse the money more quickly than the affordability endowment. We are exploring capital projects, bursaries and scholarships and career development. We are basically back to a general discussion. More updates when this takes shape again. As far as supporting the GLC affordable food outlet, we are exploring integrating the subsidy into the operating budget of the University under the VPS portfolio as an ongoing commitment.



- **GSS Loft Reopening**

The GSS Loft reopening ceremony took place on February 4th with great attendance. I would like to thank the Committee and Caucus Chairs, and the Councillors who joined and engaged with the UBC administration. The new conference set up has been a complete success and we have had bookings requested for activities ranging from an animal welfare conference, financial workshops for graduate students, GSS focus groups, and others.

## 6.2.2 VP University and Academic Affairs

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- **Supporting Graduate Student Mental Health and Wellbeing:**

- 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.

- Resetting the Student-Supervisor Power Imbalance and Sexual Assault Prevention:

In an effort to support student supervisory relationship and resetting the power struggle that ensues, the VP UAA's office successfully initiated and executed the POWER UP event. The event was held on January 17th, 2020; gave students a forum to discuss the challenges with graduate student supervision. Guest speakers from the "Student for Consent Culture" provided students with practical solution which they can utilize to shift this imbalance in their favor.

- **Advocating for Affordable Graduate Education and Better Stipends:**

- GSS Research Graduate Student Funding Survey Update The funding survey data analysis has been completed and presented to the UBC Board by the President. Results from Survey to be presented to Council. Outcome of funding Advocacy still pending.
- 2. GSS Course-Based Graduate Student Funding Focus Groups Funding Focus Groups are currently being held. Last Focus group sessions to be held February 25th, 2020.
- Policy Consultations and Tuition Consultation Submissions:  
The VP UAA's Office has worked with the Academic and External committee to prepare and submit the following response for submission of policy and tuition consultation during the period of January 2020-February 2020. Exact Policy Submissions can be found in the supporting documents in Agenda. 1. SC 13: - At Risk Behaviour Policy 2. SC17: - Sexual Misconduct Policy 3. SC18: - Retaliation Policy 4. Sauder School of Business MBA/MBAN Program Tuition Consultation

## 6.2.3 VP External Relations

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- UVSS' campaign regarding the Textbook tax credit:
  - The ACEX committee agrees with the general idea of the campaign but have some concerns with the prepared open letter.



- The VP External sent the comments and modification requests to UVSS; however, UVSS is not willing to change the letter as it has been already sent out, and several student organizations have signed the letter.
  - The ACEX committee will decide if we should bring the campaign to the council.
- Knock out Interest Campaign:
  - This matter will be discussed in the next ACEX committee.
- ABCS issue – based policy for Graduate students:
  - In an ABCS issue-based policy, a specific issue is explained, and an advocacy direction is determined for the ABCS executives to take action in consecutive years. The lobbying asks are usually prepared around the prepared issue-based policies.
  - The GSS VP External recommended in the ABCS advocacy committee that the UBC GSS will help the chair of campaign and research to prepare an issue-based policy regarding graduate students' problems. For this purpose, the options will be
    - Preparing the whole document in the ACEX committee.
    - Preparing a draft in ACEX committee that shows important points that should be reflected in the main document.

## 6.2.4 VP Students

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- **PhD connections with G+PS:**

PhD connections are a series of events held on campus by the G+PS for the first year PhD students to facilitate connection between the students. After several back and forth conversations with Jacqui Brinkman and off-campus student representatives we managed to plan one connection event at VGH and one connection event at BCCHR (off-campus locations). These connection events are pilot events. If these pilot events go well, these can be regular events held by GSS/G+PS in off-campus locations.
- **FIREtalks with G+PS:**

Collaborations on FIREtalks (Facilitated Interdisciplinary Research Exchange talks) with Jacqui Brinkman and the graduate student ambassador. A FIREtalk event focuses on a specific theme and consists of 3-4 brief (approximately 5-10 minutes) presentations by UBC graduate students from different disciplines, followed by a period for questions and discussion. The theme of the second FIREtalk will be around Mental Health which is going to take place on February 26th, 2020. More information and registration available at [tiny.cc/FIREtalks](https://tiny.cc/FIREtalks).
- **YMCA Graduate Student Wellness Pass:**

Lack of access to affordable gym facilities for the off-campus students has been brought up with UBC several times in the past few years. To help make it easier and more accessible, the Physical Activity Office teamed up with the YMCA to offer a discounted Graduate Student Wellness Pass., which is a 4-month semester pass for \$74. More information can be found here: <https://wellbeing.ubc.ca/ymca-graduate-student-wellness-pass> We promoted this initiative through our communication channels and



are administering the paperworks. We hope that this becomes a regular service offered by the Office of Physical Activity and the YMCA.

## **6.2.5 Financial and Executive Oversight Officer**

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## **6.3 COMMITTEES**

### **6.3.1 Academic & External Committee**

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### **6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee**

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- Finalized the Executive Vacancies Bylaw amendment, and Chair Kate is consulting with EOC on drafting guidelines for determining executive absence.
- Approved a number of Bylaw amendments to be presented to Council this meeting for inclusion at the AGM.
- Continuing our review of the executive duties. CPC member Aaron met with the VP External, and CPC member Kemi is scheduling a meeting with the VP Students.
- Chair Kate has produced a template for briefing notes, in discussion with AcEx, VP UAA, VP External, and G&A chair. This template will be piloted for upcoming position statements such as the EDI position statement introduced this Council, and the template may be formally adopted in the future.

### **6.3.3 Elections Committee**

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### **6.3.4 Executive Committee**

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### **6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee**

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### **6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee**

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- G&A has provided final feedback on SMART Goals to all committees, caucuses and FEOO. We presented in this Council a full report and breakdown. Thanks everyone for your hard work, we're really excited to see what you accomplish this year!



- We're also changing chairs in this Council - welcome Kate! Victoria will continue to be a member until April.
- Around this AGM season, G&A will be giving presentations on governance and accountability issues, moving to reconstitute SPAHC, and also asking Council to select an oversight body for us again this year.
- Our main priority this year is committee support. We will be reviewing the workload across everyone, supporting chair transitions by creating documentation, and assessing any gaps or issues we may have in committees. Areas of concern are high and low workloads for committees (ie. AcEx, Services).

## **6.3.7 House Finance Committee**

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- The HF committee has been working on finalizing our 2020 SMART goals. We have also been reviewing the quarter financial statement document and working on budget development guidelines for incoming executives with the FEOO. We have also been working on updating the society booking policy and reviewing monthly profit and loss statements.

## **6.3.8 Human Resources**

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## **6.3.9 Services Committee**

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## **6.3.10 Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee**

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- SPAHC has been meeting regularly in the last two months as we move forward towards implementing the first round of consultation with the student body regarding the long-list proposed themes for the Society's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan. Our current working tasks include:
  - Development of a consultation survey for the purpose of consolidating feedback from the student body on prioritization of proposed themes of the Strategic Plan
  - Amendments to SPAHC's terms of reference to adopt an updated executive plan and timeline that follows our theme-based consultation strategy for the development of the next strategic framework.
  - Initiation of a month-long consultation process with the student body and Council from February-March on the long-list of proposed themes.

## **6.3.11 AMS Caucus**

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## 6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

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## 6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### 6.4.1 Senators

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### 6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives

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The Board held its committee meetings on February 5th and 6th, as well as the full Board on February 14th. Topics included elimination of on-leave fees for graduate students, striking a sustainability and climate action committee, and an update on resource plans for integrated student health and wellbeing (including counselling). You can find all documents and webcasts online: [https://bog.ubc.ca/?page\\_id=16683](https://bog.ubc.ca/?page_id=16683).

## 6.5 GSS STAFF

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## 7 NOTICES

### 7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

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**Date:** Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Thea's Lounge, Thea Koerner House

### 7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

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- Negar Ghahramany was unseated as a Councillor from the Services Committee.
- Serena Sun was unseated as an ordinary member from the Service Committee.

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8 :41 pm.



**GRADUATE  
STUDENT SOCIETY**  
UBC VANCOUVER

# February 2020 Council Agenda

February 20th, 2020 | Michael Kingsmill Forum | 5:30 pm

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**Mover: Nicolas R.**

**Seconder: Victoria G.**

**Result: Meeting Adjourned**