ATTENDANCE

Present:

Regrets:

Absent:

Quorum: 19 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at ___ pm.

SPECIAL RULES ADOPTION

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

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

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

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

MOVER: President SECONDER: RESULT:

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President:

INTRODUCTIONS

[Introductions]
1 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

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

1.1 GRADUATE FUNDRAISING CONTEXT AND PRIORITIES

**Responsible:** VP UAA, Nicolas Romualdi; Julian Dierkes (G+PS)

**Description:** A joint presentation to inform Council about Graduate Funding Priorities

**Relevant Materials:** Funding Priorities.pptx

1.2 GSS/AMS LOBBY DAYS 2021

**Responsible:** GSS VP External, Alireza Kamyabi; AMS VP External Kalith Nanayakkara

**Description:** The GSS & AMS held one of their first joint lobby weeks. Speaking with a multitude of Ministers and MLAs from all three provincial parties, we were able to bring pertinent student issues to the forefront and highlight the importance of supporting students and higher education sector.

**Purpose:** This joint presentation is to inform council on the results and feedback received from the 2021 GSS/AMS Lobby Week.

**Supporting Documents:** GSSBC MOU – Final Draft – Ratified by SFU.pdf

1.3 CLARIFICATIONS ON ALLEGATION AGAINST THE BOARD

**Responsible:** President, Kimani Karangu

**Purpose:** To update the board members on the current situation regarding an allegation against Council as board of directors, and to get input.

**Relevant Materials:** Folder “EXP MATTERS – Allegations”

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

- January 21, 2021

**MOVER:** \[ \]
**SECONDER:** \[ \]
**RESULT:** \[ \]

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

**BIRT** the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:
### 3 SEATINGS

#### 3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kira Vandermeulen</td>
<td>School of Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leila Matte-Kaci</td>
<td>School of Information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOVER:**  
**SECONDER:**  
**RESULT:**

#### 3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.  
[Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.](#)

**BIRT** the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**MOVER:**  
**SECONDER:**  
**RESULT:**
3.3 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee</td>
<td>Axel Hauduc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code &amp; Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 February 2022:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Affiliate Organization</th>
<th>Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Association of Population and Public Health Students (TAPPHS)</td>
<td>Alison McClean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering Graduate Student Society</td>
<td>Ana Valverde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Journalism Students Association (SJSA)</td>
<td>Alex Missick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity and Inclusion in PHAS</td>
<td>Theresa Liao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics Graduate Association</td>
<td>Jonathan Agyeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Association</td>
<td>Teesha Luehr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDS Student Organization</td>
<td>Dwayne Tucker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER: VP Students  SECONDER:  RESULT:
Description: Previously, the VP UAA was the backup Electoral Officer (EO) for situations where no EO can be found. There has been agreement between previous VP UAA's and CPC that the backup role should not be placed on the VP UAA. Working with the Elections Committee, we have determined that the best backup EO should be the chair of the Elections Committee. Furthermore, the position of Electoral Officer has been updated to the title “Electoral and Student Engagement Officer” and therefore the Policy Manual must be updated to reflect this title change.

Proposed Objective: To approve policy changes regarding the position of Electoral and Student Engagement Officer (ESEO).

Supporting Documents: Policy Revision Form – ESEO and Backup ESEO duties.pdf

WHEREAS the title of the Electoral Officer (EO) has been changed to Electoral and Student Engagement Officer,

WHEREAS the current back-up EO is the Vice President University and Academic Affairs,

WHEREAS the VP-UAA holding the role of back-up EO may present a conflict of interest,

WHEREAS the Chair of the Elections Committee has been determined to be the most suitable back-up for the role,

BIRT all mentions of the Electoral Officer in the Policy Manual be changed to Electoral and Student Engagement Officer, and

BIFRT the back-up EO position shall be moved from the VP-UAA to the Chair of the Elections Committee

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

4.3 AO FORMS AND POLICIES UPDATE

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: Updates are needed for the current policies and forms for Affiliate Organizations. VP Students has provided the changes after consultation with others.

Proposed Objective: To approve policy updates regarding Affiliate Organization application and event fund forms and policies.

Supporting Documents: Policy Revision Form – AO Forms and Section 9.pdf; Appendix VIII Updates.pdf

WHEREAS the current forms and policies regarding Affiliate Organization application and event fund application are not up-to-date,

BIRT the policies and forms listed in the supporting documents be implemented.

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

4.4 CODE OF CONDUCT

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: As per CPC’s SMART goals last year, we have been tasked with the creation of a Code of Conduct. After consultation with various groups, we are bringing forth a definitive version of the Code of Conduct for approval from Council.
Proposed Objective: To approve the addition of the Code of Conduct.

WHEREAS there has been an acknowledgement that there is a need for a Code of Conduct in the GSS,
WHEREAS CPC was tasked with the creation of this document,
WHEREAS CPC has drafted, consulted, and re-drafted this document over the past year and has completed a final version,
BIRT this Code of Conduct document be implemented as per the Policy Revision Form

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

4.5 GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETIES OF BC

Responsible: VP External, Alireza Kamyabi
Purpose: A presentation and motion to inform council about successful joint advocacy initiatives taken alongside the four GSS's in BC and plans for extending our collaboration going forward under the umbrella of GSSBC
Supporting Documents: to be provided

WHEREAS the information on this motion has been given through this presentation,
BIRT the GSS Council endorse the presented Memorandum of Understanding for the Graduate Student Societies of BC (GSSBC);
BIFRT Council supports future GSSBC Executive Committee efforts to build an effective force for graduate student advocacy.

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

4.6 GSS PHOTO CONTEST: GRAD LIFE THROUGH A LENS 2021

Responsible: VP Students, Sarah Park
Description: A presentation and motion to decide the winner of the GSS Photo Contest of February 2021.
Purpose: To select a photo contest winner and direct the Events Manager and VP Students to award a prize to said winner.
Supporting Documents: Photo Contest Grad Student Impact (Feb 2021).pptx

WHEREAS graduate students of UBC Vancouver submitted photos for the “Grad Life Through a Lens 2021” photo contest with the theme “Graduate Student Impact”, and
WHEREAS the VP Students would like to engage the Council as student peers to select a winner, having looked at the entries submitted in the supporting documents,
BIRT Council approves that _________ is voted the winner of the Winter 2021 GSS Photo Contest and the Events team will follow-up with the individual who took the photo for prizeing, and the photo will be included in marketing in the GSS Newsletter as well as social media.

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 JANUARY 2020 GSS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

| Group responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer |
| Presentation time: 10 minutes |
| Presentation description: January 2020 GSS Financial Overview |
| Proposed objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures |
| Relevant materials: to be provided |

5.2 GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE UPDATE

| Responsible: VP UAA |
| Purpose: Inform Council about new developments and the plan forward. Discuss the draft Memorandum of Understanding with prospects of signing it in March. |
| Relevant materials: to be provided |

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- W2021 Flow Yoga, Boot Camp, Latin Funk, French programs: February – April
- Virtual Games: Among Us: February 17 @ 4pm
- Virtual Games: Among Us (Councillor Edition!): February 19 @ 6:30pm – Councillors RSVP here!
- Local Mountains Subsidy Program: Feb 15 – Mar 15 – Get your mountain day pass discounted!
- GSS x G+PS BHM Panel: Black Experiences in Graduate Education: Feb 25 @ 5:30pm

6.2 EXECUTIVES

6.2.1 President

- Staff update: Currently staff are working hard on several initiatives, including GSS Values and Culture documents, documenting staff workflows and procedures, initializing an internal EDI audit, undergoing Organization Coaching Project, preparing 2021-22 Budget, and supporting the elections and referendum processes; please note Admin Assistant is acting as Events Manager since Jan 2021 to cover the Events Manager’s leave of absence
• Reviewed smart goals submitted by the Governance and Accountability committee. All the 3 goals were attended to, with two fully completed. One of the goals is still ongoing as it took a different route and approach mid-way. The executive committee is satisfied with the progress made by G&A.
• Climate Emergency Funding Proposal Meeting (Jan 25)
• A meeting with Nicolas (VP UAA) and Nancy (BOG Chair) before the Feb Board cycle. (Jan 27)
• Held consultation meeting with the GSS legal department.
• Held referendum consultation meeting with ESEO and IT and communications manager.
• Together with other committee chairs, GM, AA, held a GSS strategic documents meeting-aligning our documents.
• Monthly meeting with the G+PS. Updates on the CAGS conference and the upcoming funding opportunities and GLC issue discussed.
• Attended collaborative Black History Month meeting. This year the GSS will participate in commemorating the BHM. A Graduate Students lead event on the 25th Feb 2021 alongside the VP Students
• Held a successful GSS-Longhouse consultation meeting on possible collaborative opportunities.
• ARTF- meeting developed a 40-question survey
• Staff meeting
• All chairs meeting.
• Executive meeting
• Actively participated in the ongoing ABCS 2021 bbying alongside the VP External Affairs. Main area represented to the MLAs Graduate Financial Aid.

6.2.2  FEOO

• (None submitted)

6.2.3  VP University & Academic Affairs

• Academic Integrity Working Group: As indicated earlier, a working group has been assembled through the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology (CTLT) the university has started a process to analyze the possibility of taking a more proactive approach to academic integrity, instead of a purely punitive one. The group is scheduled to meet, and Council will be updated as this work progresses.
• Main Outcomes of the CAGS Conference for the VP UAA Portfolio: Conversations have started following discussion at the conference to develop strategies to incorporate broader skill development into graduate programs to increase success and ease of transition for graduate to both academic and non-academic careers. These are likely long-term conversations that will need to be continued to develop a general consensus for a strategy in this direction.
• Development of an Advocacy Platform for Students with Disabilities: A SEEDS research proposal had been developed by one of our and approved to develop a researched based advocacy platform for graduate students with disabilities based on the existing research carried out on the issues that these students experience in graduate school.
• The advocacy coordinator has begun meeting with the students and the work is in progress. A deliverable is expected for April 2021.
• Furthering Research in Students with Dependents: Similarly, to the previous proposal, a SEEDS research proposal has been developed by one of our advocacies and has now been approved. The project is in its earlier stages and updates will follow.
6.2.4 VP External

- **Graduate Student Societies of British Columbia Memorandum of Understanding:** Following many months of collaborating and working closely together on graduate student-focused advocacy initiatives, with great success. Together, we have finalized an MOU that lays out the framework for future collaboration between SFU, UNBC, UVIC and UBC graduate student societies. The MOU has been passed by SFU board already. Following endorsement by all Boards, the Graduate Student Societies of British Columbia would be the first and only graduate student focussed alliance in British Columbia and the latest addition to the advanced education landscape.

- **ABCS Lobby Days 2021:** As a member of the ABCS, UBC-GSS took part in the 2021 ABCS Lobby days, meeting with MLAs and ministers to discuss:
  - post-secondary investments and tuition,
  - development of a BC International Student Strategy,
  - sexual violence prevention policy,
  - permanently funding and expanding the BC Graduate Scholarship to students in non-STEM disciplines
  - expanding the BC Access Grant program to provide needs-based upfront non-repayable grants to graduate students from low-middle income backgrounds.
  - Investments in student mental health services to provide free- to low-cost, multi-session counselling through new investments in e-health and other remote technologies.
  - A province wide survey to examine accessibility needs of students with disability.

- **More details will be provided about the result from the lobby meeting at the next council meeting.**

- **ThinkGrad:** The UBC GSS scheduled and chaired the first ThinkGrad meeting since April 2020 to discuss future of the organization with delegates. ThinkGRAD is a group comprised of graduate student representatives who are focused on spearheading research to strategically address pressing problems affecting higher education in Canada, especially graduate studies.

- **Graduate Student Societies of U15:** The UBC-GSS continues to lead the work on letter to federal government with U15 GSS's. The 2nd General Meeting of U15 GSS's is scheduled for Feb 22nd. The group will discuss MOU and framework to establish and maintain our collaboration into the future.

- **Graduate Education & Public Good Report:** Continuing our work in writing and preparing the ‘Graduate Education and Public Good Report.’

- **GSS Privacy Policy:** The first draft of the revised and revamped GSS Privacy Policy is finished and under review. We are working on a Privacy guideline that would outline the practical steps and new practices that are necessary to implementing the new GSS Privacy Policy.

- **GSS Council Restructuring:** Working with G&A to finalize list of academic units and the recalculation of departmental representatives based on the sizes of the academic units. Once the list is finalized, VP Students will begin reaching out to academic units with missing representatives to ensure we have adequate and democratic representation in GSS council in accordance with the GSS bylaws.
Met with Applied Science Associate Dean to discuss setting up a graduate/undergraduate mentorship program, like the current program with Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)

Planned events for the rest of the term with Victoria (EM)

Hosted several events: Savings Strategy Workshop, Studentcare Q&A

Programs started last week during the first week of February 😊: Latin Funk, Bootcamp, Yoga, French

Met with several AOs for the orientation: Experimental Medicine, Geography, IDEAS

Went through the initial survey draft for EDI audit

Planning a Black History Month panel discussion with G+PS and Graduate Student Ambassadors – February 25th 5:00 – 7:30PM PST

Grad Impact Photo Contest – closes February 15th - get your friends and peers to submit their photos! It can be anything, ranging from work from home set-up, what the lab looks like, what research looks like, etc.

Updated all AO and event fund related forms, as well as policy changes to reflect current practices – sent and approved by CPC, to be approved in February Council

Hosting Rainbow Speed Friending next week with Nicolas – Feb 11th @ 6pm

Attended CAGS 2021 – thanks Alireza 😊

Sitting on Physical Activity Committee, DIMENSIONS EDI Committee

Curating content for referendum promotion through Instagram – shares @ubcgss with your friends and family to spread the news regarding the referendum, elections, etc.

Collaborating with UBC REC for a Lunch + Lift program end of March

6.3 COMMITTEES

6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

AcEx met on January 27th and discussed:

UBC’s current tuition consultation and proposed increases, and what the GSS’s approach to responding to this consultation should be

Developing a GSS position on safety > speediness in campus reopening as we look towards the future

AMS/GSS 2021 Provincial Lobby Week debrief

Proposal from VPX on the creation of issue-based policies to help guide advocacy strategies longterm

U15 GSSes joint letter to the federal government

AcEx will be holding an Advocacy workshop on Feb 19th from 12pm-2pm to help equip members to learn more about university and government advocacy as we look towards setting our new SMART goals. Email Julia acexchair@gss.ubc.ca if you want to attend as a guest!

6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

CPC has been working on the following:

Finalizing CPC’s 2021 SMART goals

Worked on integrating changes to AO application and event fund forms

Discussed and worked on establishing further rules regarding how Departmental Representatives are calculated with G&A

Had discussions with VP External regarding ways to make sure advocacy is consistent over time

Finalized Code of Conduct
6.3.3 Elections Committee

- Opened for nominations, seated Elections Policy Panel to moderate the election, began reviewing campaign material, began organizing events to engage GSS members with the election.

6.3.4 Executive Committee

- (None submitted)

6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- EOC discussed executives’ time commitment and remuneration. We have reached out to House Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee to get feedback on the proposed increase.

6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- G&A sent out a request to all standing committees to submit 2021 SMART Goals by March 9th.
- G&A is still currently working on finalizing the ToR for the indigenous ad-hoc committee.
- G&A sent over recommendations for determining department representatives to CPC.
- G&A has been working on addressing and filling potential loopholes in mediation processes and sent over our recommendations to HR.
- G&A is currently piloting the efficacy of tracking KPIs using the council submission form.

6.3.7 House Finance Committee

- The House finance committee has been primarily on developing its SMART goals since the last council meeting. During the last HF meeting, the proposal to increase Weekly time commitment and remuneration for the executives was put forward by the EOC representatives. HF committee is currently evaluating the financial feasibility of the proposed increase and provided suggestions to EOC representatives to look into mechanisms to link the proposed increase with the performance metrics of the executives.

6.3.8 Human Resources

- (None submitted)

6.3.9 Services Committee

- Note: was informed I have to re-submit the minutes that didn’t make the last meeting. Also realized we have another set of approved minutes for our January meeting (keeping track of everything is crazy sometimes). Services Update: The Services committee has been hard at work helping to support the elections and the Elections committee. We have set in motion a series of events to help tackle the challenging situation of engagement this year. We are all hands on deck to make sure the Elections committee and elections are well supported.

6.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- SPAHC is primarily working on it’s draft of the SWOT analysis of the society. Upon completion that document will be circulated to executives and committees for feedback (late february/early march) and will inform the construction of strategic priorities. We are also scheduling some of our remaining meetings with
key GSS members and external experts to inform the SWOT analysis of the society. If you have any questions please email us at sptcom@gss.ubc.ca. Thanks!

6.3.11 AMS Caucus

- We have coordinated advocacy efforts offline but didn’t have reason to hold an official caucus meeting.
- AMS council met last Thursday (Feb 11th). Pertinent updates from that meeting are:
  - Undergraduates of Canadian Research Intensive Universities (UCRU) is consulting the AMS and other member organizations on formalization. UCRU is currently an ad-hoc partnership of student societies in the top 15 research universities in Canada that lobbies the federal government on behalf of students. The AMS VP external is currently the chair of the UCRU governance committee so please let us know if you are interested in the UCRU constitution and have feedback you would like us to pass along to him.
  - Council voted to task the AMS governance committee with pursuing student-lead student Senator elections going forward. This means that if AMS govcomm is successful, GSS will run elections for grad student senators in future years (this year they are being run by student enrollment services). If you have comments or questions please email me (Jackson) at schumacher@psych.ubc.ca. Thanks!

6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

- The Caucus has identified the three main areas for their SMART Goals: Awards, Graduate Wellbeing, and Part-Time Offerings. The goals are being fleshed out and will be sent to the Governance & Accountability Committee on schedule.

6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

6.4.1 Senators:

- (None submitted)

6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- The Board of Governors met for our regular committee cycle on Feb 3rd & 4th and for full Board on Feb 16th.
- The Board discussed matters including: the integrated renewal program, tuition increase consultation, the In Plain Sight Report and Faculty of Medicine Response, a presentation from student members of the Black Caucus, the Cloud Innovation Center collaboration with AWS, the enrolment report, the student financial support program, the process towards divestment, the climate emergency task force’s report, and the climate action plan 2030.
- You can view the docket and the recordings here: https://bog.ubc.ca/meeting-agenda-minutes/2021-agenda-packages-and-minutes/february-2021/.

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, March 18th at 5:30 pm
7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Jennifer Lipka was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
- Thomas Smith was unseated as Departmental Representative from Institute for the Ocean and Fisheries effective December 2020.
- Arjav Shah was unseated as Ordinary Member from Elections Committee effective January 2021.
- Alexa Tanner was unseated as Representative from AMS Council Caucus.
- Jackson Schumacher was unseated as Chair from Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee.
- Zhengyan (Nancy) Yang was unseated as Councillor from Human Resources Committee.
- Kevin Gonzalez was unseated as Ordinary Member from Human Resources Committee.

8 ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVER:       SECONDER:       RESULT: