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 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- February 18, 2021

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

1.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External Committee</td>
<td>January 27, February 19</td>
<td>House Finance Committee</td>
<td>February 2, February 9, February 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code and Policy Committee</td>
<td>February 3, 2021</td>
<td>Human Resources Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Services Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>February 12, 2021</td>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Council Caucus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td>Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee</td>
<td>February 5, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-Chairs Meeting</td>
<td>February 12, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

2 SEATINGS

2.1 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>Aditi Nallan</td>
<td>Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Axel Hauduc
Genome Science and Technology

MOVER:  
SECONDER:  
RESULT:  

2.2 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
<td>Ashni Gill</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Council</td>
<td>Alison McClean</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Dental Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER:  
SECONDER:  
RESULT:  

2.3 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

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

BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

<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>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>4</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>
3. MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 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 March 2022:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Affiliate Organization</th>
<th>Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Graduate Student Association</td>
<td>Haley Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Park Residents’ Association</td>
<td>Eric Douglas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER: VP Students          SECONDER:          RESULT:          

3.2 2021 ELECTIONS RESULTS

Responsible: Elections Committee
Description: 2021 GSS Election Results presentation, appeal discussion, then motion
Proposed objective: To present election results, review appealed disqualification, and ratify election results
Relevant Materials: 2021 Election Results.pptx; 2020-Preliminary Announcement of Election Results.pdf; VP External – Final Appeal.pdf; On the Disqualification of Remzi Fuentes.pdf

WHEREAS an appeal was filed by a candidate disputing their disqualification by the Elections Committee, and
WHEREAS the disqualification was previously appealed unsuccessfully to the Elections Committee and the Governance and Accountability Committee, and
WHEREAS according to Policy 12.9.2 Council is the final appeal body for election results,

BIRT Council accepts/rejects the appeal from the VP External candidate, and
BIFRT Council ratifies the results of the 2021 GSS Elections.

MOVER:          SECONDER:          RESULT:          


3.3 RECONSTITUTE STRATEGIC PLANNING AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Group responsible: G&A Committee
Subject description: Reconstitute the SPAHC committee
Proposed objective: To reconstitute the SPAHC committee

WHEREAS the Governance and Accountability Committee has revised the strategic planning ad hoc committee terms of reference, and
WHEREAS the current strategic plan cycle is coming to an end,

BIRT the GSS Council ratifies the new terms of reference as reviewed by G&A and the CPC, and
BIFRT the GSS Council strikes the Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee.

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

3.4 APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE

Responsible: VPUAA, Nicolas Romualdi
Purpose: To approve that the GSS enter into a MOU with UBC regarding the Graduate Life Centre
Time: 10 minutes
Relevant Materials: (to be provided)

BIRT the GSS Council authorizes the GSS executives to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding for the development of the Graduate Life Centre as presented to Council.

MOVER: SECONDER: RESULT:

4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 SMART GOAL PRESENTATION

Group responsible: G&A Committee
Presentation time: 15 minutes
Presentation description: G&A will present on the standing committee SMART Goals for 2021-
Proposed objective: To present GSS Council with an overview of SMART Goals for 2021.
Relevant materials: 2021-2022_SMART_SettingGoals.pptx

4.2 FEBRUARY 2021 GSS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Group responsible: Financial and Executive Oversight Officer
Presentation time: 10 minutes
Presentation description: February 2021 GSS Financial Overview
Proposed objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures

Relevant materials: to be provided

5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

5.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring Haiku Competition (Mar 8–26)
- UBC Science Communication Week (Mar 29 – 31)
- Virtual Games Round 2: Jackbox Night! (Apr 5, 5:30-6:30pm)

5.2 EXECUTIVES

5.2.1 President

- Graduate Studies Senate election voting is open until March 19th @ 4pm:
  https://facultystaff.students.ubc.ca/graduate-student-representative-vancouver-senate-2021-election
- Staff update to Council: implementing new timesheets system, elections support, budget preparation, undergoing Organizational Coaching Project as client, undergoing internal EDI audit, received funding for 9 Worklearn positions, including new Archives Assistant
- Councillor Awards will be presented in April Council – submit nominations here
- Winter Term 1 Planning Discussion with Provost office and VP Student office
- GSS Executive Team & Santa Ono
- Online bullying and racist regime
- Requested involvement of the GSS in the UBC’s upcoming Dean searches slots for GSS in the search committees.
- Held 2 different meetings with the GSS GM
- It been a slow campaigning period.
- Together with the Victoria (AA) Planning for the two upcoming AGMs (2020/2021)

5.2.2 FEOO

- Organised a meeting between EOC and outgoing executives.
- Oversaw financial transactions at the GSS.
- Collaborating with the GM and EOC to organise orientation activities for incoming executives.

5.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

- Academic Integrity Working Group: The academic integrity working group has been assembled through the Centre for Teaching and Learning Technology (CTLT). The group’s work is at its early stages and more updates will be available in the future.
- Food Insecurity: The “Share Meal” pilot program has been developed and will rolled out. The program reached capacity fairly early and the results are being analyzed to develop more targeted approaches.
- EDI Bridging Initiatives: In line with the priorities laid out in the funding roadmap, EDI bridging initiatives are being discussed. There is finally a sense of urgency in recognizing that we have to move from talk to
action, and in that spirit, significant effort is being put into designing initiatives that can be implemented in the short term to bridge access to graduate education for members of minorities. These will be piloted for a limited time and long-term implementation will likely be contingent on success.

- **AMS/GSS Mental Health Coverage:** An increase from 500 to 1000 $/years retroactive to September 1st, 2020 has been implemented. The risk analysis of the change indicates that additional cost can be absorbed into the current financial structure of the program.

- **Quarantine Streamlined Bursary:** A low barrier streamlined bursary has been set up for students coming into Canada who require to self-isolate. This is primarily beneficial to graduate students at this point. The bursary covers 34 dollars out of the 79 dollar daily fee for isolation and only requires to indicate financial need. No other information is required. More information here: [https://www.housing.ubc.ca/self-isolate/vancouver/accommodation/](https://www.housing.ubc.ca/self-isolate/vancouver/accommodation/)

### 5.2.4 VP External

- **UBC-GSS Elected as Chairperson of Graduate Student Societies of British Columbia:** GSSBC was officially ratified by all four graduate student societies (UVIC, UBC, UNBC, and SFU) with unanimous support (not a single nay vote). GSSBC Executive Committee met on Friday and elected Alireza as the inaugural Chairperson of GSSBC.

- **Graduate Students’ Letter to Federal Government on 3-day mandatory hotel stay:** UBC-GSS partnering with 7 other graduate student societies, sent a letter to federal government calling for the use of residence isolations plans as an affordable alternative to 3-day mandatory hotel stay. Our university residence isolation plans have proven to be safe and effective means of quarantine for a lot of incoming students so far. By using them as an eligible alternative to mandatory hotel stay, we can protect public safety without imposing unequivocal policies.
  - Read Graduate Student’s letter to federal government on 3-day mandatory hotel stay here.
  - Watch GlobalTV interview with Alireza

- **ThinkGrad:** UBC-GSS is organizing meeting with ThinkGrad members 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 took place Feb 22nd. The group is currently discussing an 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. 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.

- **Muddling Through the Pandemic – Cocktails with Alireza:** Hosted a fun event on cocktail making with graduate students. Big thanks to VP Students, Sarah, and Admin Assistant, Victoria, for organizing and inviting me.
5.2.5 VP Students

- (none submitted)

5.3 COMMITTEES

5.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- AcEx hosted a successful Advocacy Workshop in February that equipped committee members with the contexts and tools to navigate university and government advocacy. We learned about the Senate, the Board of Governors, as well as the scopes of the VP UAA and the VP External. Thanks to all of our guests for attending!
- AcEx met twice since the last Council meeting and has spent considerable time focusing on the development of SMART goals for the upcoming year.
- AcEx approved two letters to the federal government on behalf of the U15 GSSes, of which the GSS is member. The first letter addresses the need for students to be allowed to quarantine on-campus and the financial burdens associated with the federal mandatory hotel quarantines, it has since been released to the press and garnered media attention. The second forthcoming letter addresses further federal supports for graduate education in Canada. AcEx thanks the VP External for their leadership in these graduate student collectives that have enabled our voices to be heard in federal advocacy in unprecedented ways for the GSS.

5.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has finalized their SMART goals for 2021 and started working towards those goals - CPC has been working with G&A regarding projects around conflict resolution as well as departmental representative calculations

5.3.3 Elections Committee

- (none submitted)

5.3.4 Executive Committee

- (none submitted)

5.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- (none submitted)

5.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- We are currently working on our backlog of minutes and will provide them prior to the March 16th deadline. We are submitting now because we would like the G&A SMART Goal presentation as well as the motion to reconstitute SPAHC to show up higher in the agenda.
- G&A reviewed and provided feedback on standing committee 2021-2022 SMART Goals. We met for an emergency meeting on March 10th to review an Elections appeal. G&A is currently working on our own SMART Goals for the calendar year.
5.3.7 **House Finance Committee**

- SMART Goals for the committee year 2021-22 are drafted and submitted to G&A Committee
- Uber Eats Vouchers will be provided to attendees of GSS Committee and Council Meetings starting April 1
- Discussions for an increase in executive pay are ongoing between the EOC and HF Committee

5.3.8 **Human Resources**

- (none submitted)

5.3.9 **Services Committee**

- (none submitted)

5.3.10 **Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee**

- Over the past month, SPAHC has been performing a SWOT analysis of our conversations with various stakeholders inside and outside of the society in order to produce Organizational Goals and Proposed Strategies within the framework of the Themes that have been created in the past year. SPAHC expects to complete this by next month and move into reviewing and soliciting feedback for our Goals and P.S.’s. The committee chair is further working on developing a presentation for the 2020/2021 AGM as well as updating SPAHC ToR’s with the help of the CPC and G&A Committees.

5.3.11 **AMS Caucus**

- AMS Caucus members Jackson and Nevena have been primarily working with the AMS Ad Hoc events restructure committee to brainstorm a new models for events department oversight. This committee now meets weekly so if you have any input on AMS events please email Jackson and we would be happy to bring it up with the committee that week.

5.3.12 **Graduate Council Caucus**

- (none submitted)

### 5.4 **Senators and Board of Governors**

#### 5.4.1 Senators:

- (none submitted)

#### 5.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- (none submitted)

### 6 **Notices**

#### 6.1 **Notice of Next Meeting**

*Date:* Thursday, April 15th at 5:30 pm
6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Erik Frieling was unseated as Councillor from Services Committee.
- Erik Frieling was unseated as Representative from Grad Council Caucus.
- Kouther Noureddine was unseated as Ordinary Member from Executive Oversight Committee.
- Tarique Benbow was unseated as Councillor from Executive Oversight Committee.

7 ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVER:  SECONDER:  RESULT: