

Thursday, June 17, 2021 | Online Meeting | 5:30 pm

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Adenike Adelakun. Andrew Zang. Ashni Gill, Axel Hauduc, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Charfeddine Khalifa, Daniel He, Devarsh Bhonde (proxy for Shiva Zargar), Desiree Fiaccabrino, Edgar Liao, Ginny Pichler, Hannah Green, Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Julia Burnham, Kimani Karangu, Kira Vandermeulen, Leila Matte-Kaci, Louise Harding, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Maryam Tayyab, Mohammad Reza Karimi, Nevena Rebic, Perrin Waldock, Sam Kenston, Sandeep Gill, Saumadritaa Kar, Sofie McComb, Taryn Scarff, Teesha Luehr, Tayo Olarewaju, Torin McLachlan, William Canero, Younus Ahmed, Yundi Wang; Davi Monticelli, Kieran Forde, Remzi Xhemalce-Fuentes, Shereen Wyatt (Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights group at UBC), Shruti C., Vinoth Ganapathiraman, Victoria Gomez (Administrative Assistant)

Regrets:

Absent: Aditi Nagaraj Nallan, Alejandra Botia, Anurag Krishna, Bethany Adair, Georgia Yee, Jackson Schumacher, Lisa White, Max Holmes, Mohamed Kamel, Rachel Phillips

Quorum: 19 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:33 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: William Canero SECONDER: Andrew Zang RESULT: Carried

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Kira Vandermeulen SECONDER: William Canero RESULT: Carried



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TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you so much Madam Speaker, and everybody else who is here with us today. Thank you so much and welcome to our meeting tonight. I will go ahead and do our traditional land acknowledgement for UBC Vancouver. On behalf of the UBC GSS I would like to acknowledge that UBC Vancouver Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional ancestral unceded territory of the Musqueam people. I would also like to acknowledge that you're joining us today from many places near and far and acknowledge the traditional owners and caretakers of those lands that you come from. And Madam Speaker, I'd also want to add that, that we GSS also acknowledge that these are hard times, especially for the Indigenous community and students in our population. And we are taking this time to say that we are together in all that is happening, and we shall do the best to make sure that at least a clear plan is stipulated to make sure that things are done in the right way. With that, Madam Speaker, welcome everybody.

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 SOLIDARITY FOR PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP AT UBC - APPEAL

Responsible: Representative from the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights group at UBC

Time: ~5 minutes

Description: A graduate student SPHR representative will present on their organization and suggest ways for

the GSS to support the group.

Objective: Presentation to Council with general appeal.

Relevant Materials: none

DISCUSSION

Torin: Thank you Shereen for presenting here today. And I think I heard something in there that called on the GSS to perhaps table something regarding releasing a statement of support for SPHR and for Palestinians everywhere in Palestine. I'm not sure the process for this, but I want to make sure that we don't forget this sort of ask from Shereen to the GSS and that we discuss it. So that's all I wanted to say. Thank you, Shereen.

Julia: Thank you so much for speaking with us today, and sharing with us your very important position about ways the GSS can be engaged here, I'm really grateful for you joining us at Council today. I was wondering if you're able to share an email address that I could connect with you to be able to discuss and make sure we don't be behind on anything that was discussed today. And if you had a copy, perhaps or paper of the speech you've prepared for us, I would really love to be able to have a copy to read to make sure I didn't say anything.

Shereen: [inaudible] ... so I can definitely send that along team for further discussion. Thank you.



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Kimani: I would want to thank my colleague Torin for bringing this matter to our attention and also in allowing us to be able to connect with Shereen and the other members to be able to present today. And I want to say that, on a personal level, I'm very committed to making sure at least our voices, and my voice especially, were listened to and directed to the right direction. So I hope other members that are in this congregation today will also support the call to be able to say that we need justice, not only for people that are here, but as we acknowledge from the land acknowledgement from this land, and those that we come from. So this is right. And I think it is well within my conscience that I would want to personally support and I have always supported the call. So thank you so much for that presentation. And thank you so much Torin, for connecting us as well.

Shereen: Thank you very much to everyone at the GSS and for those words, it means a great deal for the whole team at Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, but, you know, for persons beyond this group at UBC to hear solidarity in movement to justice., so thank you.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

May 20, 2021

MOVER: Kimani Karangu SECONDER: Aaron Loewen RESULT: Carried

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:		House Finance Committee:	May 12, 2021; June 2, 2021
Code and Policy Committee:	April 28, 2021; May 26, 2021	Human Resources Committee:	
Elections Committee:		Services Committee:	April 28, 2021
Executive Committee:	May 14, 2021	AMS Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee:		Graduate Council Caucus:	
Governance & Accountability Committee:	April 22, 2021; May 17, 2021	Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:	May 27, 2021



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All-Chairs	May 14, 2021	
Meeting:		

MOVER: Jenny Lee SECONDER: Andrew Zang RESULT: Carried

DISCUSSION

Jin: Friendly reminder to please fill out your minutes, this is one of the ways that G&A keeps tracks of your KPI's, please fill it out every month so we have a record, thanks.

Jenny: I'm also from G&A, just want to say if you don't have minutes ready, just leave a note explaining why, it's okay if you don't. Thanks.

SEATINGS

3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Desiree Fiaccabrino	Chemistry

MOVER: William Canero SECONDER: Maria Jose Athie RESULT: Carried

Martinez

3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.

<u>Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.</u>

BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
AMS Caucus	Julia Burnham, Adenike Adelakun	Representative	2
Graduate Council	Sandeep Gill	Representative	1
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

MOVER: Andrew Zang SECONDER: Maria Jose Athie RESULT: Carried

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FOR (21): Daniel He, Nevena Rebic, Adenike Adelakun, Perrin Waldock, Younus Ahmed, Sofie McComb, Jenny Lee, William Canero, Teesha Luehr, Leila Matte-Kaci, Kira Vandermeulen, Ginny Pichler, Aaron Loewen, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Ashni Gill, Kimani Karangu, Taryn Scarff, Yundi Wang, Edgar Liao, Jin Wen, Andrew Zang

DISCUSSION

Nevena: I can motivate for AMS caucus, I probably won't do it as well as Jackson does. So if you join the AMS Caucus, you can join me and Jackson in attending the AMS meetings. AMS is our Alma Mater Society, they're the big society that represents both graduate students and undergraduate students. And because there's a lot more undergrads than grads, they do hold a lot of kind of power when it comes to advocacy and services and supports that are provided to students. So it's great to have graduate student representation there so that we can make sure that they are kind of tailoring their work to meet our needs as well. So it's great to go there. Hopefully, we'll soon be in person, maybe again, and one of the best things about either of these Councils is the meals. But other than that there's some great work you can do to kind of support students on campus.

Julia: I wanted to nominate myself for AMS Caucus.

Kimani: I wanted to say something in line with Grad Council. I would want our members present here to consider nominating themselves to the one position left. This is one of the most key committees that highlights the needs of graduate students and it is in direct line with the Dean of Graduate Students, Susan Porter. They're able to know what's happening on campus and it's very rewarding. Given the chair of this committee is the VPUAA and you get to work close with the exec team and the university, you know, important departments including the dean's office, and others. I wouldn't even go ahead and mention the immense benefits you'd get from being a member of this particular council committee.

Adenike: I'd like to nominate myself for AMS Caucus.

Sandeep: I'd like to nominate myself for Graduate Council.

3.3 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:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1
Code & Policy		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	2
Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	5
Executive Oversight	Sandeep Gill	Councillor	4



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		Ordinary Member	2
Governance &		Councillor	1
Accountability		Ordinary Member	3
		Councillor	3
House Finance	Candice Chiu, Vinoth Ganapathiraman	Ordinary Member	3
Human Resources	Sandeep Gill	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	5
Services		Councillor	1
	Natalie Benoit	Ordinary Member	3
Strategic Planning ad- hoc		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1

MOVER: Kimani Karangu SECONDER: Kira Vandermeulen RESULT: Carried

FOR (21): Daniel He, Nevena Rebic, Adenike Adelakun, Perrin Waldock, Younus Ahmed, Sofie McComb, Jenny Lee, William Canero, Teesha Luehr, Leila Matte-Kaci, Kira Vandermeulen, Ginny Pichler, Aaron Loewen, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Ashni Gill, Kimani Karangu, Taryn Scarff, Yundi Wang, Edgar Liao, Jin Wen, Andrew Zang

DISCUSSION

Devarsh: First of all, I would like to welcome Candace and Vinoth for joining our committee. And also I'd like to motivate other members to join the House Finance committee. Just as a quick overview, the House Finance committee looks after the financial well being of the society and is the financial oversight committee that looks after the expenses or the revenues generated by the society. One of the major things that we will be taking on in our upcoming meeting would be investing a large sum or amount, around the range of \$200K to \$500K into different mutual funds or index funds or things like those. So we would definitely like to have different members and different perspectives around this on what would be the best strategy to go about such huge investments.

3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Human Resources Committee	[no nomination]

MOVER: Maria Jose Athie SECONDER: Kimani Karangu RESULT: Carried

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FOR (19): Jenny Lee, Sofie McComb, Perrin Waldock, Daniel He, Teesha Luehr, Julia Burnham, Torin McLachlan, Nevena Rebic, Ginny Pichler, Andrew Zang, Leila Matte-Kaci, Charfeddine Khalifa, William Canero, Aaron Loewen, Kimani Karangu, Taryn Scarff, Younus Ahmed, Hannah Green, Yundi Wang

DISCUSSION

Speaker: Sandeep, I have a nomination [from Kimani] for you to be the chair of Human Resources, do you accept?

Sandeep: I'll have to pass.

Kimani: I want to speak strongly in favor of finding a chairperson for this particular committee. It is a very vital committee just like any other committee within GSS. But it is very uniquely and strategically positioned with within GSS as it deals with hiring, and management of a full time and part time staff, currently, we have survived without one. And it is important that this position be filled, simply because we would want to make our part-time and full-time staff feel supported by ourselves, because, as you know, GSS is for and by students. But we also have that unique positioning that we have our full-time and part-time staff and without our chair, so many things are on standstill, for example, we have a few positions that we would want to fill in, you know, to some people have stepped down from their positions; we cannot move ahead without the clear direction of the chair, I know two members of the committee would move and call for the meeting. But again, looking at the demographics, it would be good, and good practice and good tradition to always have a chair at the helm, directing and leading the way forward. So Madam Speaker, I would want and wish and urge anybody who feels that they have the capacity to lead a meeting, to nominate themselves, and they will have my full support and the support of other committee chairs that we have always showed to our especially our new committee chairs that join us. So please members, consider nominating yourselves and we shall support you day and night.

Jin: I think I'd like to touch on that. Within a lot of these different committees, I would say HR probably has the most direct skills you will learn and use as the chair of HR, I would say directly translates most well to more real life applications. Just because every company does have an HR department, and even moving past HR, I think that if you are interested in working in a business setting or anything that requires really leading a team, like a manager position, I think this would be a great position to kind of build those skills. You can build and learn and improve on interpersonal skills, communicating with people from different backgrounds, even going through the hiring process. Even if your future profession does not involve hiring people, I think there's something to be said about being on the other side of the hiring process and kind of having a better familiarity with what typically organizations look for and that could very well prepare you for your own interviews or job applications in the future. So, I would say that, like in my like money, just to reiterate what Kimani said, I think that this position is not only very important for the society and for our own staff, but also I see this as like a great opportunity for anyone to, you know, take a leadership position and also build on some of these like more soft skills that can be taken that can be readily applied to any kind of job.

Julia: Thanks Jin, for capturing that, as well. I'll add to this big chorus of chairs, we're encouraging you to join us and becoming chairs, that GSS chairs are paid a small honorarium for their role. So that is also something to think about, as you sort of weigh the pros and cons of trying to take on yet another responsibility in our busy lives. It's also a great time to join because we'll be having a councillor retreat soon and there should be some



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opportunity there to learn some different skills and feeling more comfortable and competent as a chair. So I hope you will put your name forward and help us all out with this important work.

Jin: I just want to throw this out here at the very end, that if anyone is actually interested or you know, slightly interested or want to learn more, please feel free to reach out to me. And we can sit down some time or talk via email, and we can discuss, like to know about this position in more depth, and also talk about as Kimani said, how the other committees can support you as the new chair as well.

Jenny: Just adding onto Jin's comment, even if you're slightly interested, you're not alone, even if you have never been in a committee before, and completely new to GSS, you have other people as G&A Committee that's actively trying to support committees in their work as well as more experienced people who have been in the GSS for a long time, including staff as well as executives. So if you're just hesitating whether or not to apply for the position, just go for it. You have support from a lot of people.

Kimani: I want to echo my colleagues and say thank u so much for those sentiments, and also remind our members that you can belong to more than one committee within GSS so it's quite in order if you belong to more than one, you can even chair more than one, it's been done in the past, so members, welcome.

4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

WHEREAS the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization, **BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in June 2022:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Graduate Consulting and Business Network	Courtney van Ballegooie
Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Society	Nicole Wang

MOVER: VP Students SECONDER: Andrew Zang RESULT: Carried

4.2 VPUAA SPECIAL APPOINTMENT

Responsible: Kimani Karangu, President

Description: Presentation of candidates for VPUAA special appointment due to resignation of previous VPUAA

Time: 20 minutes presentation followed by motion

Objective: Council is presented with VPUAA candidates and then moves to motion to specially appoint VPUAA

Relevant materials: Folder – <u>VPUAA – Special Appointment</u>

WHEREAS the previous VPUAA resigned May 21, 2021 and the VPUAA position has since been vacant, and



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WHEREAS it is preferrable to have the VPUAA position occupied as soon as possible in order to fulfill important executive and management duties, and

WHEREAS a by-election is feasible as per Bylaw 8.4.3 but will take significant time to prepare in order to have sufficient turnout and engagement, and

WHEREAS Bylaw 8.4.3 permits a vacant position to be filled by appointment upon a special resolution of Council, and

WHEREAS Council has heard from all candidates for the appointed VPUAA position,

Candidates: Davi Monticelli, Matthew Luzentales-Simpson, Natalie Cappe, Remzi Xhemalce-Fuentes, Yundi Wang

Majority in favour: Yundi Wang

BIRT GSS Council, by special resolution, appoints <u>Yundi Wang</u> to the position of Vice-President, University and Academic Affairs, effective immediately.

DISCUSSION

Kimani: I would want to thank the members that put their names forward. As of this morning we had 5 candidates, but as of now we have 3 candidates. I also want to speak to the point that the 3 candidates now, their statements and missions have been laid in the supporting documents and I hope our members have had an opportunity to read through them, and are here to appoint them to this particular position. It has been a journey for myself to take on this position, and I would desire to have a VP in place by today. Madam Speaker, I would let you now carry on from there.

Speaker: I'll start with Davi, then Remzi, then Yundi. 3 minutes each. I encourage you to turn on your video so people can see you. I'm very strict so I will mute you at 3 minutes.

Davi: Thank you for having me here today, I am applying here today, you have seen my application. What I didn't mention is how I ended up being the director of development of Engineers Without Borders here in Brazil. By the way, presentations first. I am a first year PhD student in atmospheric sciences coming to Canada hopefully now in June. So as I mentioned, we started the Engineers Without Borders as trainees, so we had to understand how the organization- the structure of the organization, what it does, the goals, the methods, and what we had to do this project, to get in. And in this project, the currently directors and vice-president and president saw in me some sort of leadership potential and they asked me to be the director of development, which in that time was also a similar situation as now with the VPUAA; someone resigned, there was a vacancy, they needed someone that was readily adaptative and they found me to do that. And it turns out to be pretty good experience for me and for the organization as a whole. From what I've seen today in the meeting, I got the perspective of how serious are the issues here that the committee deals with, taking as example, the Palestine movement that was requested, the first thing requested today in the meeting. I hope to be a good candidate for this position. I do better with questions than with presenting myself right now, I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have about me, my background, anything you want to know. And final statement, I have read most of the strategic plan the bylaws, I know a bit more about the VPUAA position, and I will do my best not to let down this incredible organization that is the GSS. Thank you very much.



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Remzi: My name is Remzi Xhemalce-Fuentes, I'm a third year PhD student here at UBC at the traditional ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam people. And well my plan is pretty straightforward, I want to continue with the work that has ben done by the former VPUAA especially regarding trying to get PhD to be tuition-free. I believe this is achievable. As all of us know, PhD tuition now is a minimal part of what resources from PhD students come from. So I believe we should start developing a roadmap with the university following that call made by Nicolas in 2018. To try to get to a commitment by the university to actually achieve this free tuition for PhDs. As I said before, I believe higher education should be accessible for everyone. Of course, this could be [escalated]. First, attending to our BIPOC community and continuing to the rest of us. I believe the recent approval by the university board of governments [sic] to increase tuition was a bit harsh for a lot of students. This also includes master's students. I think that we can emulate a little bit what has been done in other universities, not only in Canada, but in the world where there has been a halt to tuition increases and for master's students too. I think this is part of a broader strategy that we must work side along with the university. And of course, we must continue the yearly plan that Kimani and the team established before, right, increased mental wellbeing access for everyone; increase a little bit, talk to university, see the ways that we can get more affordable daycare for a lot of parents here that have to, need to have their kids and these kinds of services. We need to support and keep supporting all the mechanisms in place that help students that have not only issues but also communication aspects with their supervisors that feel that their voices are not externed very much to the university. I believe information technology now is giving us a lot of capacities to increase in these aspects. And, for example, with the case presented very well today about the crisis in the Middle East -

Speaker: Remzi, your time is up. Thank you.

Yundi: Hi everyone, my name is Yundi Wang, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I am joining from the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam. It is an honor to run for interim VPUAA. So a little bit about myself. I am a third year PhD candidate and Vanier scholarship recipient, and mjy home department is neuroscience. I'm currently deputy chair of AcEx and recent member of Grad Council and have been a councillor on AcEx for the past year. Beyond GSS, I have been involved at UBC as a grad student ambassador, and as well in the local Vancouver community as a crisis line operator amongst other numerous volunteer roles. Personally speaking, I think it is a critical time for graduate student advocacy, in light of the fact that UBC is reopening and so one of my goals if elected during my term is to open discussions on equitable and safe transition to campus reopening. GSS is considering sending out a survey regarding returning to campus and I personally I feel UBC should consider a number of different avenues; for example, such as how students will be transiting to and from campus, quarantine housing for international students, as well as, for example, hybrid student models of education, as well as considering the mental well being of graduate students and the workload that will be required of a number of different teaching assistant positions, as we move from completely virtual to various models of education. And in addition, as I mentioned earlier in our meeting, there is a pressing need to re-examine the honorary degrees that have been extended out from UBC and to reexamine Truth and Reconciliation amongst other various things. And in addition, the VPUAA current position will be in term, and so I full on support a by-election in September because I feel by special appointment this is two thirds of Council but not an representative of the student body, so I am a strong advocate for and I'm dedicated to fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable place for all graduate students to learn, teach, research, network, and thrive as they pursue their degrees in an ever changing and difficult time. For that I thank you for your time and best of luck to the rest of the candidates, thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Now open for questions.



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Jenny: Thanks for your introductions and speeches. I have a personal question for Yundi. It seems you're doing a lot of great work in multiple different positions. have a lot of great positions. I'm just wondering if you'll be able to balance all your work throughout all these different responsibilities including your Deputy Chair role in ACEX Committee.

Yundi: Whomever is elected as VPUAA will sit on AcEx by virtue of the position itself and in addition will be a member of Grad Council. Earlier it was mentioned the fact that councillors who are on Grad Council work closely under the VPUAA, so personally speaking I feel I am fit to balance my commitments and strongly am dedicated to representing the voices of the graduate students here at UBC. Thank you.

Teesha: For all candidates, I'd like to know which aspect of the VPUAA position you are most worried about or unprepared for, and how you're planning to tackle that.

Davi: I was looking at the bylaws and I saw there's a specific point that says being the default representative to all non-society bodies dealing with academic matters or appoint a delegate to do so. Perhaps what scared me the most is this default representative part of this, because I don't know how many non-society bodies there are in UBC and how on person is able to represent them all, but I know from experience that once you get into positions like this, as someone has previously, you have a lot of people backing you up and a lot of people can share their knowledge with you. And I hope to get this from the Council, especially from Kimani if I understood correctly, he is currently holding up this position.

Remzi: I think for me it's a little about balancing different opinions within the student body. Because we at UBC we are very diverse, and that's part of why we're such a good student body. But we have a lot of different opinions, right. So it was like a little bit, when we had the presentation about the conflict in the Middle East, I mean it's a very sensitive topic. So I think for me, the challenge is to find the correct way of gaining the correct channel of communication. There are channels now but as to find a way to increase them. So we can have all these opinions go somewhere and reach consensus. I think that's the greatest challenge of the position and also on the way to approach the university. Because while you want to work well with university authorities, with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, we still need to advocate for a lot of things that-

Speaker: Your time is up. Thank you.

Yundi: To answer the wonderful question, I think personally speaking, my biggest concern is-for those on Council who may or may not remember Nicolas who was a previous VPUAA-has served on Council, numerous sessions, and has made submissions to many different programs at UBC; for example, at the Board of Governors, and collaborated with groups such as the AMS and student senators to work on various areas. So my concern is, I guess, being able to fill those shoes and do as great of a job as Nicolas has served us for many years, but I hope in collaboration with all these amazing student bodies, I can hope to live up to his footsteps.

Perrin: Davi, I think you're a fairly new UBC student, so what is your plan for getting up to speed with the GSS and UBC, as you haven't been on campus yet?

Davi: You are right, I started my PhD in January, and I'm still adjusting to everything and still coming to Canada. But what I know for a fact, GSS Council is, well if I see here 40 members already participating in this meeting and I need to be a person that will represent not only the Council but also graduate students. So for me, the acquire knowledge and experience for this job is by questioning everyone and getting everyone's opinion,



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pondering everything, and see what I can do with that. I'll try to learn as fast as I can to perform this job. I already know five topics we should address based on my previous meeting with Kimani.

Kimani: I have a question that will need an answer from each one of you. The VP position is one that demands some commitment and time commitment for that case, and clear understanding of the policies not only for GSS, but for other external bodies as it is stipulated. So maybe how you understand those and how you're going to go about that. The next question is that, as this role expects you to work with different parts of GSS and other partners, how have you demonstrated your teamwork skills and that can be stated to us today, and how much time do you think you have for this particular position?

Remzi: Thank you Kimani for the question and thank you for the great chat before this presentation you had with us. So regarding the knowledge about the bylaws and the constitution, and the policy manual of the GSS, it's very important that we dominate this, right. Luckily enough, I've been already in this rodeo a couple of times, I've learned a lot about the policy manual. I think the VPUAA is the most important VP position within the GSS. And in the past, while I've led teams, I've been part of teams, with a lot of people tackling diverse problems, not only student problems, government problems with legislative problems at the federal and local government. I've performed well, I'm a good team player. And for the last part of the question, I've said this before-

Speaker: Sorry your time is up.

Yundi: In regards to code and policy, there is I do admit quite an extensive list of code and policy, but I'm confident that I will be able to master it and examine all of the proceedings. To give evidence for my roles and collaboration, in the past, I have been heavily involved as a coordinator in what's known as Let's Talk Science, which is a not-for-profit organization in Canada, and trained well over 100 active volunteers that later reached more than 10k students in scientific outreach educational projects. These educational projects were in rural communities as well as Indigenous communities requiring coordinators such as myself to form connections with a number of partners of different bodies from a number of different cultural backgrounds-

Speaker: Time's up, thank you Yundi.

Davi: Thank you for the question. So I can say is that I have ben before in leadership positions, I may not have been part of GSS up until now but I have been part of volunteer organizations and in their leadership position before. I have deal with bylaws, and I also have done a lot of partnerships between academics and governments in the industry, n this organization that I have worked before. I am always trying to learn new things and be proactive, a lot of my time I try to be proactive, as you can see here is during your strategic planning, highlighting things, the bylaws the VPUAA section, anyways. So this is what I can offer to you: my productivity and also past experience in leadership position, I hope there will be enough to do this job.

Julia: I'm very excited and always heartened to see students who are keen to be involved with the GSS and keen to take on different leadership opportunities. So I thank you all for your interest and for answering our questions tonight. With that being said, I did want to take this time to express my confidence in Yundi Wang for this role. I currently serve as the chair of the Academic and External Affairs Committee and have previously worked with VP Academics[sic] when I, a few years ago, was the VP Academic for the AMS. And I'm very familiar with the expectations and competencies required for this role. And in this very unique situation that we are currently in, where we need someone to be able to pick things up right from the get go for an interim position. I



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think that it is the wisest course of action for this Council to appoint a candidate who has been serving on the Academic and External Affairs Committee, Graduate Council as well, and has been involved in the conversations about where our GSS, different conversations around the university advocacy have been going, different tasks and priorities that are currently underway, and will be able to seamlessly pick up the threads as we scramble to try and fill someone in this interim capacity. So that is my sort of note here and noting that it does indeed take a significant amount of onboarding to acquaint ourselves with these new roles and understanding that this is an interim position with an intention to have an election. I want to express my confidence and support for Yundi to be able to seamlessly take on this role. And I thank everyone for showing up today and expressing their interest.

Speaker: Just to remind everyone it's perfectly okay if you want to make a statement.

Sam: Thank you our nominees, I have a question. Some of you have been actively involved with GSS in the past but we don't see you after the elections. What is the assurance that if you don't win today, you'll still be involved with the GSS? Can you guarantee that your valuable services, which are very much needed will still be rendered? Or will this be the end of you until the next election?

Speaker: I take that as a question for all three candidates.

Yundi: I currently sit as also the Neuroscience representative on the GSS. And so my position for that will turn over in August since it's we hold those positions for one year. I do plan, if I'm not appointed as VPUAA, to continue to run for representative and I have cleared prior to taking on the Deputy Chair position of AcEx that I can hold that position as an ordinary member. So I'm delighted to continue my services to the GSS because I think student advocacy, especially nowadays is incredibly, incredibly important and our voices need to be heard throughout and across campus.

Davi: let me say first that I agree with everything the previous candidate said, the GSS seems to me to be an essential component of UBC as a whole, and of course you can also be an organization that could inspire others around the world and of course Canada as well. So that means being like this, I think I will pursue another position if I'm not elected as VPUAA, but if I am, I will do all my best effort to represent this organization, thank you.

Remzi: I think this is a problem that's always happened since student organizations, it's really bad. People that just want to get like that for their CV, the title and they'd never show up again and do anything. Well, I still show up, even though I haven't won in previous elections, right. So I can tell you now, just to answer your specific question, [inaudible] full time job for me if I were to be elected, if council would allow that. And I think it's really, really, really important to acknowledge all of us with whichever role we have in the GSS, big or little, what we can actually achieve is very high. Right? That's why I was saying, Let's think big, right? We can do a lot of things, not only with issues of affordability, not only with that, like we need to start emulating other universities that are achieving great things, reducing tuition for their people, doing things like that. That's why we have to always say-

Speaker: Time is up, thank you.

Kimani: I would like to make a statement as well, given that I've been in this position or with the GSS since 2017 when I came to be the CPC ordinary member but then left as FEOO and now I'm the President. So I think within



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that span of time, I have learned something. Given the position that our VPUAA left, filled that position, and she had her ambitions and goals. And listening to our candidates, Madam Speaker, I want to speak strongly supporting the candidacy of Yundi because I understand the issues that are happening at the ground with our Council. She has an insight, she understands what is happening, she has a vision, she has a goal that she would want to achieve and make sure that she tries to fill in the big shoes that were left by Nicolas and also the ones that Alison started making. Also looking at the commitment that Yundi has given us, for example, being one of the deputies, meaning she has the capacity to become a chair. And that one speaks volumes, because this is how you show commitment and interest in wanting to advance the narrative moving forward. Because we know the honoraria, as a deputy chair, you don't get so much other than experience and exposure in collaborating with other people. So I think she has this well sorted out. And I think she has the time that can work behind the clock. And I think with the few times that I've interacted with her I can work closely with her. However, I'm not the final decision maker. And I also want to acknowledge and thank the other two candidates that are here. You also equally qualified. It's only that today I feel Yundi is the best candidate for me today.

Yundi: I just wanted to say to my fellow candidates who are running alongside me, thank you so much for having such an enlightening debate with me, if you would like to call it out maybe perhaps it's better to call it a question period. It is an honour to run alongside you, and I wish all the candidates the best of luck.

Speaker: While I'm setting up, Polly doesn't have a ranking system so if we don't have a majority we'll eliminate the lowest and vote again.

Edgar: I'm just curious, what has been your experience in engaging the two graduate colleges that UBC has? And how do the two graduate student colleges in UBC, which account for maybe about 200 to 240 residents figure in your plans?

Davi: My answer for that is short, I have no experience yet but I will be more than glad to hear you out if you have something to share after and if I become VPUAA so I can represent you as best I can, thank you.

Remzi: Well I haven't been in a leadership position in the GSS so I haven't engaged formally in these two councils but what I can say is I have engaged with a lot of students in the times that I've been a candidate for the GSS positions and the AMS position. And it's a whole different way to approach students. But as it falling a little bit, I would be happy to work with any council, any student body.

Yundi: I would like to echo my fellow candidate Remzi and speak to the fact that I'm working with a number of different student bodies. Each one has their different persona, personality, policies, and procedures. And I'm prepared and ready to collaborate with any and all that are necessary and to speak for the voices of the graduate students and the graduate colleges that exist across campus. And personally, I'm not as experienced with said needs of the graduate colleges that exist on campus. Regrettably not familiar about and looking forward to if appointed, to become familiar with their requirements as soon as possible so their voices can be broadcasted across UBC.

Davi: I just want to thank everyone that is here present that show up to this meeting. And thank you all the candidates as well for their participation and all the comments. I have learned from this meeting and I expect to learn even more, being in the position or not, as I said, I will be following GSS up close. And I haven't answered a previous question. I don't know if I can answer now just quickly. I will try.



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Speaker: I will not allow that, it will be unfair for the rest of the candidates, sorry. Last time when Yundi spoke she was just thanking the other candidates and then I would encourage you, obviously you want to take that time, keep it only to that so it's fair.

Remzi: I would just want to say congratulations on the candidates running, and both Davi and Yundi. I really hope that if you any of you two are elected, that you can take a look at a little bit of what the other candidates proposed and take a little bit of ideas. I think it's really important to try to listen to different opinions. And I hope you actually carry out your role diligently. I'm pretty sure you will. And just continue knowing that there's a lot of opinions in our-

Speaker: I also have to call that out of order, it's also giving an opinion in another way. Keep it to thanks. I'll move to voting now.

Vote for VPUAA Candidate:

Results: Yundi Wang (22), Davi Monticelli (5), Remzi Xhemalce-Fuentes (1); ABSTAIN (1): Yundi Wang

[Motion reposted below:]

BIRT GSS Council, by special resolution, appoints <u>Yundi Wang</u> to the position of Vice-President, University and Academic Affairs, effective immediately.

MOVER: President SECONDER: Maria Jose Athie RESULT: Carried

Martinez

FOR (23): Torin McLachlan, Julia Burnham, Daniel He, Sandeep Gill, Nevena Rebic, William Canero, Sofie McComb, Jenny Lee, Kira Vandermeulen, Saumadritaa Kar, Charfeddine Khalifa, Jin Wen, Taryn Scarff, Aaron Loewen, Hannah Green, Edgar Liao, Axel Hauduc, Andrew Zang, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Perrin Waldock, Ashni Gill, Teesha Luehr, Younus Ahmed; **ABSTAIN (1):** Yundi Wang

DISCUSSION

Sam: Congratulations to our new VPUAA just like I said earlier, Remzi and Davi, GSS will need you. We will need your commitment. We will need your presence, we will need your participation. This is not the end of the road. I don't want you to be disheartened. I want you to feel proud of yourself. And please be involved as much as you can with GSS. This is not the end of life. I hope you'll be man of your word and come to meetings, volunteer for other opportunities and other openings.

Yundi: I just wanted to thank Council for appointing me as interim VPUAA and I call Sam's point to involve Davi and Remzi and I hope that two of you will join the GSS in some capacity, if not, I strongly encourage the both of you to run in the by-election which we will be implementing and posting in the near future. Again, it is imperative that the voices of students be heard during this critical time. And by special appointment is by all means a democratic process, but it is most ideal if it comes from the greater student body. And so I strongly encourage both of the fellow candidates to please consider running in the by-election. Thank you.



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4.3 HUMAN RESOURCES POSITION

Responsible: Governance & Accountability Committee

Description: Since the Chair's resignation on May 17 2021, HR committee has been without a chair. HR is a vital committee that handles hiring, staff performance reviews, and other staff operations, so it should not be left without a chair or meetings for an extended period of time. To the best of our knowledge, none of the current HR committee members are willing to take on the Chair position. Further, despite the call to fill the HR Chair position last Council, no Council members have stepped up. HR also does not have a Deputy Chair to act in the absence of the Chair.

Time: 5 minute introduction

Objective: To approve the following motion on hiring a contract Human Resources position.

Relevant materials: none

WHEREAS Council has not been able to fill the position of Human Resources (HR) chair since the resignation of the previous chair, and the current Executives do not have capacity to fill this role currently, and

WHEREAS the Governance and Accountability Committee has discussed with the President and staff the importance of having a functioning HR body in order to maintain GSS staff operations, and

WHEREAS the HR chair duties are a significant amount of work and a contract position would allow vital HR needs to be handled professionally for the immediate future until a more permanent solution can be assessed by Council,

BIRT Council directs the President to hire a contract Human Resources position, that may undertake a needs-based collaboration with HR committee.

MOVER: Jin Wen SECONDER: Ginny Pichler RESULT: Carried

FOR (21): Younus Ahmed, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Sofie McComb, Ginny Pichler, Kira Vandermeulen, Yundi Wang, Nevena Rebic, Leila Matte-Kaci, Julia Burnham, Perrin Waldock, Daniel He, Axel Hauduc, Hannah Green, Ashni Gill, Jenny Lee, Teesha Luehr, Aaron Loewen, Taryn Scarff, William Canero, Desiree Fiaccabrino, Edgar Liao; **ABSTAIN (3):** Kimani Karangu, Tayo Olarewaju, Jin Wen

DISCUSSION

Jin: So per our discussion previously, when we were talking about nominations for the HR position. So G&A met with the President and other staff members. And because the HR position, the HR chair position is so vital to the functioning of the organization, we thought that the best solution in interim is to hire a person to temporarily fill in the position of HR chair. Yeah, and basically, we're going to have basically, if a chair does step up- if this person is hired, and if we do find a chair, then we will split some of the responsibilities between the person, this new appointee as well as the incoming HR chair.

Aaron: Thank you for bringing this up in Council, I think is very important that HR has a chair, in some capacity, especially as someone who currently sits on HR, I understand the work that is vital. And what we have to do is, obviously get someone in to kind of lead the way for us. I do want to bring up the fact that I don't necessarily think that our policies and bylaws would allow us to throw just any staff member into this chair position. And I just want to say that, or I want to ask, basically, are we able to? Are we thinking of changing the policies in or



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changing the policy manual to work around this? Will this involve CPC? And yeah, actually, I'll just start that or start there, and then I'll make the rest of my points in a bit.

Speaker: We can suspend code but I hate doing that when there's no motion here.

Jenny: I think I can clarify at least part of Aaron's question, I'm sorry, I think that there was a bit of a confusion on the staff position and the HR chair position, I don't think Jin means to have the HR staff position become the HR chair, it's just that hopefully the position would help take care of some of the duties that the HR chair would have done if we did have the position filled. But we're not necessarily making the staff position take on the HR chair, those would be completely different positions.

Aaron: Thank you, Jenny for that clarification. I was a bit confused and I thought that this was going to be the person who would be taking over the chairship. Given that we are on a topic of the Human Resources chairship position, considering this is something that we're trying, it sounds like, as a governing body we're trying to fulfill this need and move forward with it. I just want to remind Council that this position does have to be dealt with, this chairship position, preferably according to our code, does have to be fulfilled within the next month or so I think from the official unseating date of the May Council we have until July 19 or 60 days to fill this. And I just want to remind Council of how this can be done. This can be either, first, a member can step up within the committee itself. So the committee would convene and discuss and choose a member from anyone who is currently a Council member from the committee to take over this chairship. Or the second option, which is an executive can step in and fulfill this position, and be seated and unseated every month until a suitable candidate is found. But I do just want to highlight that we are on a bit of a ticking clock of sorts where we do have a date that we do have to adhere to according to our code.

Tayo: Based on the previous submissions of the Aaron Loewen, I will be asking that motion be voted down for various reasons. The first reason is, yeah, our current members of HR. And as highlighted by President himself, and also by Aaron Loewen, members of current members of HR can actually call a meeting as far as at least, I believe the policy manual says at least two members can make a call for a meeting in the absence of a chair to actually discuss and make decisions on the vital Human Resources functions that [inaudible] perform. And so it's an understanding that for various reasons that hasn't been done. And in the absence of a chair before we go into hiring. I know that having a staff in charge of HR matters, I think it will only be prudent if that is first tried to be done, if that option is explored. And secondly is the 60 days limits that's actually provided for in our bylaws and our policy manual that hasn't been done. And even though the point is made, that's what the concerned person will be doing is slightly varies from the functions of the HR committee. I'd like to highlight that our policy and bylaws says that all HR, all human resources functions should be undertaken by that committee and it's unclear from this motion, exactly what the current hire will be doing right, like the job descriptions and job specifications of the proposed hire. Then thirdly is, a contract person actually obviously has financial implications and I'm not sure to what extent, this motion doesn't detail the term, like for how long. And also how much is proposed and to my knowledge, this hasn't been discussed at the committee in charge of the society's finances, which is-

Speaker: Your time is up, I can ask the councillors to extend time.

Tayo: I request an extension for another 3 minutes.

Speaker: Seconded by Devarsh. Go ahead.



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Tayo: I was talking about the cost and financial implications, which I don't think has been addressed by this motion, or in previous discussions which the relevant committee. And the next reason is just my sense uncertainty, and I'm just a bit uncomfortable with the proposed extent of what is envisioned, right. My concern is that it's just not in compliance with relevant sections of our bylaws, and policy manual and frankly, due to the potential conflicts with the bylaws and policy manual I'm just concerned that in the absence of first a change in either the bylaws or the policy manual, that this motion is beyond the capacity of the Council. So those are my reasons.

Julia: I wanted to take a moment to speak about how unacceptable it is that the GSS does not have reliable, consistent human resources for its, I believe, nine part time and four full time staff members. It is particularly egregious that we our only structure and system for human resources as a society is a committee chair, who conducts meetings on a monthly or as needed basis, and isn't even paid for that work. Because we are not just a council here of representatives, volunteering our time, we are a society that has obligations to several employees. And this is a great weakness of student unions, really across the country, that we are not able to treat our societies and our councils as places of work. They are, we have people whose entire, you know, jobs and day to day is to support the work of our council, of our executives. This is particularly important as we go through these moments of transition with our new VP's and the extra support that is needed there. I think this is one of the most urgent pieces that we need to address. We can't continue to beg people at each council to take up the role of HR committee chair, we have an obligation here to our employees as directors of the society to be providing proper human resources in the GSS's work and I strongly support this motion. I will also add that the motion also just allows the president to do this anyway, because the description for the job as well as the salary can be discussed after it passes. So I would hope that we were able to pass this and quickly remedy such an egregious and long standing issue.

Kimani: I would want to speak strongly in supporting this motion. For some of the reasons that have been highlighted by my colleague and thank you so much for pointing and hitting the nail on the head, because that's what it is at the moment. Reiterating on what has been said is that GSS has grown, we have at least now ten WorkLearn positions. Before, we used to have one or two or three. Now we have ten. We are four full time staff, and at least five contracted services providers, and yet in my office, I've received a few requests to increase the number. And this points to the request that when we want to deal with these things, when we want to make GSS successful, when we want to make it work for all of us, for the 10,000 students, we must call for the right directions. We must always advise towards the right direction, and the right direction is addressing to this, the internal systemic failures that we have continued to encounter and one of them is failing to address things as they come, we have a few things that need to be brought for a referendum to address some of these issues. However, time, it is not on our side and if we do not move ahead and do some of these things, we are sitting on a time bomb, our full time staff, our part time staff, these are employees, we do not have a professional who is in that position to advise. This position is not coming to fill the position of the human resources. No Madam Speaker, the position is to advise on matters to do with human resources. I cannot sit here, the president, seeing the people sitting on a time bomb that can erupt at any point. When you talk about finances, I am aware of the budget of the society and in my budget I have some surplus that can go ahead and cater for these allocations that you're talking about. I want to stop there and call upon my other members to support strongly this motion because GSS has grown and we need to grow as well and address some of these systemic failures that we have not addressed for so long.



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Devarsh: This is just a clarification, is this contracted position that we are proposing the person we are going to hire for it, is it going to be a graduate student from UBC or someone from outside the organization? I was just wondering about that.

Kimani: Thank you so much, chair of HF. Yes, we are looking for a professional who can advise on matters to do with HR. As I said, we are sitting on a time bomb our society has grown we have so many staff and we do not have a proper structure that can support the needs of our staff, whether it is part time or full time, we now understand that there are so many things that have been put in place, for example, we cannot say employ people from outside the province or from outside the country. Because of the things that have been associated with WorkLearn and WorkSafeBC and UBC Human Resources. Some of these things will need some professionalism to deal with them and be able to represent some of these needs to the shooting organization, I'm talking about those other partners that you know, able to provide us with staff. So I would want to say yes, we are looking for a professional, we are not looking for a student, unless the students themselves they are adjusted and can be able to advise human resource committee and their staff supporting from a professional perspective.

Jin: I'd just like to reiterate what Kimani and Julia were saying. I understand that there are some points being raised against this question. However, again, I think that there's been, you know, the spot has not been filled for about a month now, and if we table this discussion, it's not going to be filled for another month. And we don't know if it's going to be filled next month, either. So I think that as an obligation to our employees, as well as, you know, just the functioning of our society. I think I would strongly encourage people to finally think about this motion and see that, while it is not ideal, it's kind of necessary.

Tayo: I can see that this motion will be helpful in some ways. My concern is just that in trying to do something right that we might go against what our bylaws and policy manual- right so in other words, I suggest probably doing this the right way which as the President said is actually going through a referendum and making a change in our bylaw, our policy manual, and envisioning how we can have the HR committee working with such an external person or with a contractor or however we did envision. My concern is that this affects the spirit of our bylaws and policy manual, especially since this is a student society run by students and organize for students. Then to the concern that time is not on our side, I would say that we can actually take an interim step now by having members call meetings. So to members I spoke to a current member of HR today. And he is willing to act in consonance with another member to call a meeting. And I think that can serve as an interim step while we make the necessary changes to ensure that there was a more systemic change. And may I say that this is not new, the fact that we've had committees without chairs for a while. If the members will recall it's happened a number of times, two years ago, and even last year, and it was also concerning the HR chair, and we had members stepping in sometimes, it was the executive, you know, step in and act as a chair to just ensure that things keep on moving. So in other words, what I'm trying to say is that I once again, just request the members discountenance this motion, that we do have stopgap measures. And-

Speaker: Your time is up. I need an extension of the total discussion time as well as personal discussion time if you want to continue to speak.

Tayo: I'm fine, I'll leave it at that.

Speaker: 20 minutes is up for the current discussion, if you want to discuss further we need an extension, and please propose a duration. Moved for 10 minutes by Kimani, seconded by Julia.



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Julia: I have a couple of points that I wanted to bring up to clarify some pieces here. As we think about bylaws and structures, and what does everything kind of look like, I think it's worth reminding that the President of the GSS does have the authority and power to hire contract positions. This is not a permanent hire, if it were to be a permanent fixture - and, you know, we can discuss that at a future date - that would be something that would be best moved in a referendum and we still have the opportunity to do that. What we're doing here is addressing this urgent issue in the interim, and I will also speak to difference between vacancies of chairs of other committees versus the vacancies in the Human Resources Committee. You know, there's a big difference in gravity of the situation. And for people whose professional circumstances are kind of at stake when we're on hold for an HR committee to be functioning versus, you know, a vacancy in, I actually don't want to name an actual committee, because we all do important work. But the differences here, that we are not fulfilling our obligations as directors of the society to be creating a safe and conducive work environment where there are human resources options available to our staff. As directors of this society, I would be extremely concerned if we would continue to not have any sort of option here. In the interim, we've already now had a couple of months go by since this resignation. And now we'll have to wait another month to have this seat be filled, if we're able to have it filled at that point in time. So it's extremely alarming that we are not able to fill this for our staff, we cannot support the graduate students of UBC, and support our executives in their mission, if we are not supporting the staff of the society, whose roles exist to be able to support the direction of the GSS- our services and advocacy. Additionally, within this motion, the President really does have the authority and power to be doing these sort of contractual hires. I just can't stress enough the obligation that we have here, I appreciate that we do have members of the Human Resources Committee who theoretically could call a meeting to order. But I am not one to think that that would be a reasonable thing to place so much pressure and weight on for folks who are not interested in stepping up to chair to be the sole source of hope, and being able to provide these essential services within the organization. So I think I've said my piece here and I really just want to emphasize that this should not be a debate..

Kimani: If members of Council would like to see Council succeed, they would be keen to support this motion. And I would caution this Council here not to be misguided about breaking policy and bylaws. These contracts do not come in any way, as I initially stated we have 5 contracted staff who are working for GSS, and I don't think those ones were brought to Council for this. I would want to point to the members that contracted services for GSS do not in any way, contravene our policies and bylaws. In fact, I'm one of them avid activists and you know, supporter of following the policy, following the bible and toeing the line that is likely to be the direction that you're supposed to be headed. So I would want that notion to be corrected, there is no bylaws or policies that are being contravened in this situation. We are talking of an interim contract, not a permanent position. I also want to strongly speak about the need for supporting the work that we do. If we are able to come to this meeting today for example because of the support we're getting from our staff. The question is where do our staff go for support if Kimani is not there, and this is metaphorically? Kimani is currently serving in so many capacities. Are we thinking about supporting our execs and our staff as well, the EOC are supposed to be supporting executives and in other different ways, but instead they're misleading the congregation. So I want to speak strongly that we have the money and we have the will to hire the right person.

Devarsh: Thank you Kimani for clarifying that we are actually looking for an external professional who will help with the HR activities. But as far as I understand, basically we'll be more or less in the same boat, that the HR committee will still have two people. And they will be the ones who will be voting on any motions, or anything that happens in the committee, this external person will just be providing guidance or, you know, support. So I



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feel that in order to help with that, what we can also do, in addition to hiring this contract person is to publicize, to link through all our media channels that we have, like email, and you know, social media or things like those. I feel that in the Council, only 40 people are there, but we have access to 10,000 people. So let's at least make an effort through that channel as well. So that we can, you know, make this urgent opening, or increase the awareness for this urgent opening to all the graduate students. So yeah, that's my recommendation. And I'm in support for hiring a professional as well, that I think will be quite helpful.

Jenny: Thank you for everyone who has spoken on this issue. I'd just like to emphasize as Julia and Kimani have spoken, that this will be a contract position, not a permanent position. And this is just to fill in the gap that we currently have in lacking a position to drive HR matters for the time being. And, you know, although we've already spoken that there are two HR committee members to fill the gap. It's not fair to help them step up to take on the chair duties when they are not appointed the position. And it's also G&A's understanding that none of the HR committee members have indicated interest in taking up the chair position, as well. And just want to point out, please correct me if I'm wrong. But I think that we do need three people to vote on matters, although two people could call the meeting. So there is that, you know, lack in the member there. So I'd really like to vote for the motion.

Aaron: I'm going to state right off the bat just to be clear, I do think that we have more than two councillors on HR, it looks like we have more. But nonetheless, I just wanted to state because I meant that the two committee members can call a meeting, that was the policy that's being referenced. Second, I will state that I am still in support of hiring an external person, someone who can help out with HR, I only bring up the policy because we still have an obligation to fulfill that that can be done simultaneously, I don't see a conflict between the two. Unless there is a misconception that this incoming person was going to be the chair, which doesn't sound like is going to be the case. Another matter, if there have been HR matters that have been brought up in the past, HR committee has not heard of any since May 17 when they stepped down, so I would just like to express that HR including myself is willing. And can I extend for about five minutes?

Speaker: Any motion to extend for 5 minutes? Moved by Devarsh and seconded by Jenny.

Aaron: Finally, I just wanted to clarify something, this is just something that I wanted to know, simply because if this person comes in, I just want to understand the power dynamics. So question towards either Jin or Kimani, whoever feels most comfortable to discuss this. First, what would be the proposed differences between this and the position of GM? I'm just not sure the exact role that each would play that would be separate. Although I do understand that there probably is a need for both. I just want Council to be aware of that. And then the second is, what would be this relationship between the GM, this HR hire, as well as the HR committee? Ultimately, in the end, because I feel like that is going to be a dynamic that obviously has to work well together to fulfill any of the needs for HR. And that's something that I've seen in my non-GSS HR experience that I have.

Kimani: Thank you so much, Aaron, for that question and also for assuring us that from a policy, there is no conflict. The situation here, if I understand the question correctly, is that what position or the role of this particular position will play alongside the chair of the Human Resource, is that correct?

Aaron: As well as the GM, the other party of interest I asked about.

Kimani: Thank you so much. Yeah, I'm touching on the GM. To be honest, today, the GM does a lot of human resource work, which is not nearly in her mandate, or in her portfolio to do. And the reason as to why I'm



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saying that we need to have a human resource wing that will be able to be an advisor kind of a position to our staff, because we have identified the need the people that have come to this position, for example, for those who have been here longer than myself or with me here, know that it has been a chronic problem for Human Resources Committee and chairship. You remember we had to revive it with Nicolas and now we are trying to revive it, but again, those are first aid issues, those are putting band aids. We need to get the root of the problems and start addressing them in a more sustainable and more long lasting way. So there will be clear cut of each and everyone's duties in this regard, because we have the GM, the advisor for human resource and the Human Resource chair.

Tayo: I propose we extend this discussion by 10 minutes please.

Speaker: Seconded by Julia. I don't hear any opposition. Tayo, please.

[Received late: AGAINST (2): Jin Wen, Axel Hauduc]

Tayo: Thank you. I would like to start off by alluding to the prohibitions in the bylaws and policy manual that was actually referring to, so [Bylaw] 9.1.g says standing committee, human resources. And the policy manual then says "Council shall set the Human Resources vision for the society and observe and oversee the procedures and policies in the Human Resources handbook". So I think I was initially fixated on the human resources, vision for society, and the President and Jin have further clarified that it will be that basically the proposed personnel will be offering consultations to the Human Resources Committee. So based on that, I would like to propose some changes to the actual motion, because the current provision that says, that the personnel shall cooperate with the Human Resources Committee on a needs basis. Like I think that was what, actually, that I was trying to make some suggestions that that be changed. So a needs-based collaboration, right, I think that provision might be problematic. And maybe I'll propose a change as we go on. So that's my first point. And the second point is, I am also current executive of the of the GSS, and current Financial and Executive Oversight Officer, and I do my best to support and help out with events, executives in whatever way I can. However, at times, we might have varying opinions and positions on issues. And this just happens to be one of them. And so I will just request all the executives that when we do have these varying oppositions that, please, they should just express it and let it go.

Speaker: Time's up. I'm going to be even more stringent on speaking on topic. Be specific about your speech on the particular motion.

Julia: I wanted to speak briefly to CPC's questions about how HR committees and HR staff work in student unions to provide some context not specific to GSS in the different navigations with policy and bylaws here. But how this has worked in other places like the AMS. The HR committees of a society are generally the places that are filled with student councillors, but also have ex-officio assistance from the HR staff within the society. And the benefit here is that we have the expertise in a non-voting capacity within these places, which is great for supporting the students who might not have the expertise, particularly when human resources tends to involve legal issues or could involve legal issues. Additionally, the sort of scoping of duties would generally lead to pieces like hiring impartial people like the council speaker, like the elections officials, and any sort of agents of the society as a whole would be something that would be delegated to these HR committees. Sort of day to day, grievances and issues and anything of that sort would generally be handled by the experts, full-time staff here. But this is how student societies have been able to navigate these different pieces. There's definitely lots of tweaking and adjusting segments and figuring out what would work best. But this is generally a pretty



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widespread practice where we have support with the expertise but still maintaining the students voting and maintaining control of those particular impartial and core pieces of the society.

Kimani: I have listened carefully to the house and I think it's time I call the question.

Speaker: There's no speakers list so we'll go straight to question.

4.4 REVISION OF 2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN THEMES

Responsible: Axel Hauduc, Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee Chair

Description: Presentation on an issue followed by a motion for approval through a vote of Council.

Time: 15 minute presentation + 15-30 minutes of discussion (approximate)

Objective: Council discusses strategic plan, and Council (hopefully) ratifies new Themes structure

Relevant materials: 2021-06-17 Axel Themes Revision Presentation 2

DISCUSSION

Axel: So theme two would be something like "resilience" or "our space" or "a just recovery". But as it stands right now, the first vote would be for "a just recovery", because that would be what was tabled from the previous meeting. But what I'm proposing is that we vote down this current resolution, and I'll bring to the floor a resolution to change the current structure of the themes. And then we can vote on what the name of that second theme would be if that's what people vote on.

Speaker: We'll have a discussion first. Before we do that, procedure-wise, yes we can vote down the previous motion, that's a great idea, to start fresh. But the second part, you want to vote on three options, motions don't work like that. So we have to decide on one and then vote for that one. I'll take speaker's list now.

Kimani: I just want to say thank you to our current committee, they've been doing a great job. And, you know, keeping fighting and giving us direction that we need to follow for the next five years. So I'm so delighted to say, thank you for the great job that you're doing as a team.

Jenny: I also just want to thank Axel. I know that last meeting, there were a couple questions. That's why he came back to us this time with a bit more detail in the presentation. And I think it was very well spoken, as well as provided with the details that we had asked about last meeting. So thank you.

Devarsh: Thank you, Axel, for coming back to us with the update. Before we vote, I just wanted clarification that, pursuant to a last time discussion, from what we realized that adding financial sustainability to a just recovery would not be wise place, per se. So I was just wondering what is the exact location or the exact section for that that we decided so that the sustainability aspect is covered? So, I would be glad if you can just answer that. To provide more clarity or more context, last time, we discussed that, you know, adding financial sustainability or economic sustainability to a recovery factor might not make sense because COVID recovery will happen in a year, it is already on track to be done. So, it is good to have it as a separate point item or line item. So, I was just wondering, where did we cover that aspect more or less?

Axel: I would say that exists mainly in a new second theme. Right now the plan doesn't really speak to a lot of details on specific financial goals, but within the financial sustainability concept, what we are proposing is



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twofold, one is that for example, the choice of our financial partners is a consideration going forward. We're not necessarily advocating for a specific change, but considering that banks may have funding things that are adverse to global warming and climate change, to take that into consideration when we choose our financial partners. Then second is the exploration of some kind of green endowment fund that we might be able to put a small surplus money we have into, if that's feasible in the next years, but that would kind of exist in the second theme. I think with that, most of the financial sustainability stuff would be in the second theme.

WHEREAS the Strategic Planning ad hoc Committee believe that the current set of 2022-2026 Strategic Plan themes need revision, and

WHEREAS the Strategic Planning ad hoc Committee has proposed a new set of themes better suited the next 5 years given foreseeable COVID-19-related changes and our current progress as a society with regards to Indigenous Reconciliation efforts,

BIRT the new themes for the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan shall be "Graduate Student Experience", "A Just Recovery", and "Our Society", and

BIFRT these themes be implemented into the plan being developed and scheduled to be brought before Council in draft form in July 2021 by SPAHC.

MOVER: SPAHC Chair SECONDER: Kimani Karangu RESULT: Failed

AGAINST (18): Daniel He, Sandeep Gill, Sofie McComb, Kira Vandermeulen, Desiree Fiaccabrino, Leila Matte-Kaci, Teesha Luehr, Ginny Pichler, Younus Ahmed, Ashni Gill, Edgar Liao, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Kimani Karangu, Taryn Scarff, Jenny Lee, Aaron Loewen, William Canero, Axel Hauduc; **ABSTAIN (1):** Maryam Tayyab

DISCUSSION

Axel: I'd like to encourage councillors to vote this one down so that we can perhaps have a discussion about what the preferred name for the second theme would be.

Speaker: I'm going to draft the motion you're proposing:

BIRT the new themes for the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan shall be "Graduate Student Experience", "Resilience", and "Our Society", and

BIFRT these themes be implemented into the plan being developed and scheduled to be brought before Council in draft form in July 2021 by SPAHC.

MOVER: SPAHC Chair SECONDER: Maryam Tayyab RESULT: Carried

FOR (21): Perrin Waldock, Kimani Karangu, Aaron Loewen, Julia Burnham, Adenike Adelakun, Maryam Tayyab, Teesha Luehr, Yundi Wang, Sofie McComb, Kira Vandermeulen, Younus Ahmed, Jin Wen, Taryn Scarff, Jenny Lee, Leila Matte-Kaci, Ashni Gill, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Sandeep Gill, Daniel He, William Canero, Axel Hauduc

DISCUSSION

Axel: Just to reiterate, on my idea here for "resilience". So I was kind of debating between "resilience" and "our space". But "our space", I felt a little bit like I wanted to mirror the last goal and kind of have something that



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addressed how this would be addressing matters within the community. It would be addressing sustainability issues, and it would be addressing things like inclusiveness, and equity and diversity, which are really just closely interrelated to sustainability. If you look at things such as environmental racism, and how we're the UBC community, but we're also an international community, a lot of people coming here might be coming from places that are severely affected by climate change. So that's what I was kind of going for, but I felt like "our space" was a little bit too possessive. Like this is ours. And I thought that "resilience" was like a one-word title for this slightly amorphous second theme right now, but that was also elegant, and it exemplified how with this theme, we would want to just increase the resilience and the sustainability and the well being of our UBC graduate student community through a number of different efforts. So that's a bit more of my thinking. for that.

Kira: I just wanted to ask about since reconciliation was previously in our strategic themes, where does that fall into these new themes? I guess is one thing I'm not quite seeing. And I wonder if others may be wondering too. Thank you.

Axel: That's a great question. This has been a needle we've been trying to thread at SPAHC since the beginning. My answer is that we have reconciliation-related goals and priorities in every theme now. What we had before was one EDIR section, then upon talking with a lot of people knowledgeable in this area, were made aware of how that can pose issues, kind of pigeon-holing things a little bit. When we talk about our advocacy, we're talking about our specific advocacy goals, for example, for Indigenous graduate students, when we're talking about our internal reforms, we're talking about accessibility, how do we make the graduate society more accessible? And we're also talking about how do we make like an indigenous graduate student subcommittee within the GSS. So like these, the reconciliation we've tried, we're trying to infuse across our entire strategic plan. And this was the course of action that we came to, upon talking with people who are knowledgeable in this area. And that's what we thought was best. We do recognize that it doesn't superficially- it's like we're taking out the EDIR goal, and we're kind of turning it into a larger theme. But in practice with the actual content of the strategic plan is not reflecting any reduced emphasis on reconciliation. In fact, I think it's doing an even better job at implementing it.

Devarsh: I know that you and your committee have put in a lot of time and effort into this. One thing that I wondered is that, is there a restriction of having just three themes, because, a common thread that I am observing through our discussions is that people are getting confused. What section comes under what so why can't we have just, you know, let's say 10 themes, which are clear and concise, instead of trying to clump them into three themes, which, you know, sometimes work, sometimes do not fit. So I'm just wondering about the reasoning behind getting to three themes.

Axel: I would say, some of this comes from historical reasons. When the [Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee] was first formed, I think that was in late 2019, and this was before I was even a member of the committee, let alone the chair. And what was decided at the time was that we would use this theme structure as a way to guide creating the strategic plan. And I believe just from looking at our previous strategic plan that it was inspired by the previous strategic plan, which is the 2017 to 2021 one which has three themes. And so the idea was to have three or four themes, kind of like a small handful. And yeah, I feel like this, unfortunately, that it has become a bit of analysis paralysis with this structure. And I just hope that we can have a structure that facilitates the internal goals of the entire strategic plan, and doesn't really overshadow them, whether there's going to be three themes or four themes. What's the really important stuff I think is going to come down to the



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priorities, the goals and the proposed strategies. I think that this structure, it won't have a huge impact on the actual content of the strategic plan. But it addresses some kind of nagging issues that were leftover from the four-theme structure that I enumerated in the presentation; namely, like not implying that reconciliation is just in one area. and that, in fact, it forms a part of all of our strategies and plans at the GSS. Same goes for and not like linking explicitly reconciliation with EDI, because those are two very different concepts. And we don't want to make it seem like we're putting them all in a bucket together and just like crossing that off, that we really want to infuse that across our entire strategic plan. So the structure, I think, of these themes will facilitate that, but it will not, overall change the nitty-gritty of every of the goals that we're proposing, which I think are the most important part of the strategic plan. And since this set of themes was arrived at with a Council vote, I need a Council vote to officially make that change.

Speaker: Our three pillars will be what is stated on the screen. We vote no, then we go back to the pillars we had originally.

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 GSS ARCHIVES PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Responsible: Kimani Karangu, President; Victoria Gomez, Administrative Assistant **Description:** Introduce the GSS summer archives work and progress so far

Time: 10 minutes

Objective: Provide an update to Council

Relevant materials: GSS Archives Presentation-Council2021.06

DISCUSSION

Julia: I just wanted to be here as the hype man for archives, because people tend to not be excited about archives. And I'm going to give you a whole list of reasons why we should be. Councillors, you can pay special attention to the council discussion section on Teams and you will find a very real and exciting example of why the GSS needs archives. I'm going to take you on a little story here. So fun fact, in 2008, the GSS put out a very controversial handbook, and the President at the time had decided that that was a horrible thing. It was too controversial. And we were going to remove the handbook from circulation. So that was the original plan. And then it got reversed in a very dramatic turn of events. And then it became this contraband handbook for some time and was quite controversial. Basically, it had a like 100-year history timeline of UBC, with lots of very exciting activist histories. And we were rocking the boat and it wasn't good. And that was lost forever. Until in 2014, two graduate students in the Department of Geography found a copy of this forbidden handbook, and it was about to be thrown out. And they've now digitized it and exists online. And I've linked it over there in that Teams discussion for you to take a look. But how many other pieces like this exist out there that we don't know of that are somewhere within the GSS and have a great story behind it and are really great pieces to tell our institutional history? But we've got no idea how to find them, how to share them, and how to learn from them. So I am thrilled that we're gonna be doing this archives work. And thank you so much to you and Sophie for taking this on. And, yeah, archives are very cool, very fun, very important. We need to care about it.

Kimani: Thank you so much, Victoria, for that wonderful job that you and Sophie are doing in that arena. Most of you will remember when I was the FEOO we commissioned some serious money to be used to renovate the



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Green Room, the Green Room is somewhere in the forest that is a bit below the Koerner's pub. So there is a floor, another one, below Koerner's. But for those who do not know, we have that one, where we keep our documents and all that. And one of the things that I'm so excited about this is, as Julia has mentioned, one day when I was the FEOO, I was looking at some of the clauses that established the CPIF because I wanted to use the money and I needed to know how it was used. Believe it or not, I had to ask people who have been around here for about 17 years, but none of them had an answer for me. And that one was so annoying and frustrating. And so I'm very happy that what is happening now. It's key. And it's something that I know personally, I've been support of so thank you so much, Victoria for doing this.

Victoria: If I may add one last comment, we did find the controversial handbook, first of all, I now have a copy of it. I have squirreled it away and I'm going to protect it with my life. It is amazing. But yes, we didn't know we even had it, let alone showed the world. And secondly, that, yes, was the day that I realized that our "archives room" holding our financial documents had no walls but many rats. That was so horrifying. Oh, yeah. So so good that has walls now. And Connie, we do have that [archives report from your year] but again, we didn't know to look for it because we didn't know we had it. So I hope that Council will keep us accountable and, you know, force all executives for future years to work on this. To make sure we don't keep repeating this.

5.2 GRADUATE LIFE CENTRE UPDATE

Responsible: Kimani Karangu, President

Description: Updates on the progress of the Graduate Life Centre renovations project

Time: 10 minutes

Objective: Provide an update to Council

Relevant materials: GLCUpdates-June2021.pptx

5.3 MAY 2021 GSS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Responsible: Tayo Olarewaju, Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Description: May 2021 GSS Financial Overview

Time: 15 minutes

Objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures

Relevant materials: May 2021 Financial presentation (Final).pptx

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

• None for now, stay tuned for summer programming!

6.2 EXECUTIVES

6.2.1 President



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- Staff meeting: New staff welcomed to the team (Sophie-Archives Assistant and Karen-co)
- Anti-racism proposal discussion meeting with VP Students
- A follow up Leasing agreement meeting with UBC for CUPE 2278 (GM, FEOO & Nicolas from REPEAK)
- Financial Consultation Meeting with the GSS FEOO
- Climate emergency fund advisory committee meeting
- First meeting to consider requests for funding from the Climate Emergency Fund and make recommendations on allocation of the Fund.
- Managing Director Students Affairs Shortlist Presentation meeting with PFM
- Student Affordability Taskforce: The broad goal of the system-wide Student Affordability Task Force (SATF) is to understand the affordability issues at UBC and develop a means to evaluate programs and make prioritized, costed recommendations for consideration by the broader administration, by the Senates, and by the Board of Governors. It will also identify the limitations/constraints of the university in addressing some aspects of affordability and recommend advocacy strategies with the government and other public bodies as relevant.
- Meeting with AMS/GSS Re: Briefing on the Proposed Incremental Tuition Budget
- MLA Oakes Meeting with Ashni Gill & the Student Societies key areas of collaboration including sexualized violence discussed.
- Graduate Student Wellbeing (Social Connection): Connections about Wellbeing and student social connection. UBC Wellbeing has been defining its priority of Social Connection, inviting GSS' input on the development of milestones & action plans.
- Return to Campus and Safety Planning Framework Discussion with GSS/AMS Executives and the office of the VP Students.
- Held an update meeting with UBC Sauder School of Business concerning the use of Thea Koerner Ballroom space.
- Together with the GM held a meeting with the GSS advocacy team meeting and attended to other VPUAA related meetings (LSAC)
- New Building Site Selection Committee: School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) and Medicine
 1 Building (MED-1)
- GSS Council In-Person Planning (AA and Council Speaker)
- GSS Structural Meeting together with GM and AA

6.2.2 FEOO

- Repaid Canadian Emergency Business Account loan.
- Effected and reviewed financial transactions at the GSS.
- Initiated Executive Oversight Committee's review of 2021-2022 executives' SMART goals.

6.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

• (none submitted)

6.2.4 VP External

- U15: MOU ratification, chairperson/vice chairperson nomination and election, federal advocacy letter
- Researching for sexualized violence report



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• Organizing sexual violence training for GSS council, etc with Victoria and Sasha + Ariana from SVPRO

6.2.5 VP Students

• (none submitted)

6.3 COMMITTEES

6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- AcEx met on June 15 to discuss:
 - o UBC's tuition allocation towards student priorities
 - GSS Statement on the honorary degree of Bishop John O'Grady, Principal of the Kamloops Indian Residential School
 - o G&A midterm review on AcEx goals

6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

CPC has conducted their midterm review of their SMART goals, continued working on their full review
of the Policy Manual, discussed expanding the deputy chair position, and discussed ideas regarding
MOU and position statement storage.

6.3.3 Elections Committee

• (none submitted)

6.3.4 Executive Committee

- Exec are working on their SMART Goals
- Will present on the G&A goals in July
- VP External has been raising issue of sexualized violence in various platforms;
- President has been sitting on various search committees, including one in the office of the UBC VP
 Students, and committees for fund allocations; President (as VPUAA) will be meeting with Grad Council
 Caucus members soon to go over goals; will be sending out survey on Friday to students about
 returning to campus

6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

• (none submitted)

6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- G&A has reviewed its conflict resolution policy draft and will work with CPC for further revisions.
- G&A is continuously working on the Indigenous Engagement ad hoc Committee through consultations with senator Lisa White.
- G&A has been tracking KPIs and has established a supportive actions flowchart.



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- G&A has reached out to committees about sending in mid-term progress reviews for SMART Goals.
- G&A has been in contact with Services and Elections to assess feasibility and best ways for a merged committee.
- G&A discussed with the President and staff the importance of filling the vacant HR chair position and a recommendation to address this gap
- G&A welcomed a new ordinary member, William Yip

6.3.7 House Finance Committee

- Approved the bi-weekly pay of VP UAA for the GSS President for covering the duties of the VP UAA from May 16, 2021, to June 15, 2021.
- The VP UAA from the previous year (2020-21 term) will be compensated VP UAA's bi-weekly pay for a 2-week period dependent on them accepting to help with the transition process for the new VP UAA who is expected to be appointed during June's GSS Council meeting on June 17, 2021.
- The expense for replacement of UPS supporting GSS IT Servers has been approved
- Approved a maximum reimbursement of \$100 to purchase work-from-home related office supplies and computer accessories for work-learn students employed by GSS.
- Approved the Budget actuals for March 2021

6.3.8 Human Resources

• (none submitted)

6.3.9 Services Committee

• We have completed our chair transition, are discussing possible options for the Elections-Services responsibilities realignment, and are working on an engagement survey with Elections.

6.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

• The Strategic Planning Committee has completed a rough draft of the strategic plan and is now seeking input from the GSS community for ideas on how to complete some areas of the plan, as well as approval of a revised themes structure.

6.3.11 AMS Caucus

(none submitted)

6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

Taking up project to track available awards to graduate students with assistance from staff

6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

6.4.1 Senators:

• (none submitted)



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6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

• (none submitted)

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, July 15th at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Mahdi Izadi was unseated as Ordinary Member from Code and Policy Committee.
- Rosanne Tam was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **9:21 pm.**

MOVER: Kimani Karangu SECONDER: William Canero RESULT: Carried

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