



ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Aditi Nagaraj Nallan, Ashni Gill, Axel Hauduc, Bethany Adair, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Charfeddine Khalifa, Daniel He, Davi Monticelli, Desiree Fiaccabrino, Devarsh Bhonde (proxy for Shiva Zargar), Jenny Lee, Jin Wen, Kimani Karangu, Kira Vandermeulen, Leila Matte-Kaci, Louise Harding, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Nevena Rebic, Perrin Waldock, Rachel Phillips, Sam Kenston, Sandeep Gill, Shayan Fahimi (proxy for Julia Burnham), Sofie McComb, Taryn Scarff, Teesha Luehr, Temitayo Olarewaju, William Canero, Younus Ahmed, Yundi Wang, Zakhar Krekhno; Aryanna Chartrand (ABCS), Joshua Millard (ABCS), Sarah Park, Sharon Stein (Educational Studies)

Regrets: Jackson Schumacher

Absent: Adenike Adelakun, Alejandra Botia, Andrew Zang, Anurag Krishna, Edgar Liao, Esther Xu, Georgia Yee, Ginny Pichler, Hannah Green, Lisa White, Maryam Tayyab, Max Holmes, Mohamed Kamel, Saumadrita Kar, Torin McLachlan

Quorum: 20 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:34 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: Aaron Loewen

SECONDER: Jenny Lee

RESULT: Carried

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Yundi Wang

SECONDER: Kimani Karangu

RESULT: Carried



FOR (19): Teesha Luehr, Axel Hauduc, Younus Ahmed, Rachel Phillips, Daniel He, Ashni Gill, Kimani Karangu, William Canero, Desiree Fiaccabrino, Leila Matte-Kaci, Perrin Waldock, Aaron Loewen, Jenny Lee, Taryn Scarff, Kira Vandermeulen, Sandeep Gill, Maria Jose Martinez, Louise Harding, Yundi Wang

DISCUSSION

Jenny: May I please move to amend agenda item 4.3 to include the following motion:

BIRT that Council select option 2c.i as the recommended action.

MOVER: Jenny Lee

SECONDER: Louise Harding

RESULT: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you everybody for joining us today. I hope the meeting will be amazing. So I will go ahead and acknowledge that for UBC Vancouver and on behalf of the UBC GSS, I would like to acknowledge that UBC's Vancouver Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam people. I would also like to acknowledge that you are joining us today from many places near and far and acknowledge the traditional owners and caretakers of those lands. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. And welcome to the meeting.

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 DECOLONIZATION AND INDIGENIZATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Responsible: Dr. Sharon Stein, UBC Department of Educational Studies; Kimani Karangu, GSS President

Description: Introductory presentation on decolonization and Indigenization in higher education

Objective: Overview presentation to Council on topic of decolonization and Indigenization to be expanded on in Council Retreat July 2021

Relevant materials: to be provided

DISCUSSION

Louise: On the first slide, I wasn't able to read the text but I'm sure there is some valuable information there. Could you show it again? Or could you show a picture in the chat, thank you.

Sharon: Absolutely.



Davi: Thank you for the presentation. I just wanted to say that I have trouble [inaudible], they have a good program there about this decolonizing the university and this good relationship with the indigenous people there so it might be interesting to exchange information between those two campuses.

Speaker: I believe he was saying University of Okanagan.

Sharon: Yeah sure, of course.

Kimani: Thank you Dr. Stein for that wonderful introduction on decolonizing the higher education and the spaces that we do live. I also want to thank you for accepting to come to talk to us and we are seriously appreciative of that fact. So thank you for your time and contribution and we look forward to having a deeper conversation in the next few days.

1.2 ALLIANCE OF BC STUDENTS CONSULTATION

Responsible: Aryanna Chartrand, Chairperson for the Alliance of BC Students; Josh Millard, Executive Director for the Alliance of BC Students; Ashni Gill, GSS VP External

Time: 15 minute presentation

Description: At the beginning of each year, the ABCS presents to its member organization to ensure that both current and incoming student leaders are aware and understand how the ABCS supports students all across the province and what it means to be a member of the ABCS. As a member organization, the UBC GSS is involved in deciding and shaping the annual priorities of the organization that will be further researched and refined for our various campaigns, advocacy and the big push at Lobby Days in October.

Objective: to ensure that our members are the ones generating our annual priorities. From there, we report to the Advocacy Committee who then presents these annual priorities to the Board.

Relevant materials: to be provided

DISCUSSION

Leila: I'm trying to understand, is the ABCS a union?

Aryanna: It's an alliance of student unions, so all our members are student unions or student societies. So we're just the provincial sort of voice for that alliance.

[consultation logistics discussion]

Speaker: I need direction on how long we want to have this jam board session for.

William: [in chat] 10 minutes

Speaker: Seconded by Louise. Your floor for 10 minutes starting now.

Aryanna: Just to give some context, this is a jam board that we're sharing with all of our students, associations and all of the members that make up the Alliance. Again, this is a great opportunity specifically for the UBC GSS because grad students are way too often overlooked. So all of the issues impacting you are very important to the work that we continue to do for students.

[conversation continues via the jam board platform online]



William C.: Thank you for the presentation and consultation, it's important and great work. I just wanted to make sure that these consultation results will be available to the GSS once it's over, is that correct?

Aryanna: Yes, so we'll compile these consultations and then when we bring them to our board, because you're a member, you will get access to all of this. [...] Again, just to emphasize, if you think of something today, tomorrow next week, you are always welcome to add things to this jam board. It's very much like a living document because our priorities are constantly changing. And then we did talk a little bit about this, Lobby Days very good for the ABCS. As a member, you know, we all come together in Victoria and really lobby for what students need. So if there's anything you think the government can change or do better to support you, please let us know.

[conversation continues via the jamboard platform online]

Aryanna: Alright, I'm not too sure how we're doing for time. But that's all for my jam board. Again, you should have access to these, Joshua will be sending out a survey as well in case he wants to add a more thorough written and developed addition to our consultation. But yeah, this is how we set up our year, we would not have direction as an organization, unless we had these consultations with our members, we are very much a bottom-up organization. So everything that we do is starting with you right now. And as we continue to refine and to develop these priorities and these asks, as a member, you have a voice at every level of our organization to really ensure that grad students specifically and whatever other issues are impacting you as a person, and a student, get to be prioritized and get to be addressed.

Joshua: I'll just say thanks again for having us and listening to us speak, it's been a pleasure.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [June 17, 2021](#)

MOVER: William Canero **SECONDER:** Kimani Karangu **RESULT:** Carried

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:		House Finance Committee:	
Code and Policy Committee:		Human Resources Committee:	



Elections Committee:		Services Committee:	May 19, 2021
Executive Committee:	June 11, 2021	AMS Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee:	April 13, 2021; May 13, 2021; May 31, 2021	Graduate Council Caucus:	
Governance & Accountability Committee:	June 23, 2021	Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:	
All-Chairs Meeting:	June 11, 2021		

MOVER: William Canero

SECONDER: Aaron Loewen

RESULT: Carried

3 SEATINGS

3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Bukola Mary Ibitoye	Nursing
Davi Monticelli	Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences

MOVER: Kimani Karangu

SECONDER: William Canero

RESULT: Carried

3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

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

[Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.](#)

BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
AMS Caucus		Representative	0
Graduate Council	Nevena Rebic	Representative	1
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0



MOVER: Maria Jose Athie
Martinez

SECONDER: William Canero

RESULT: Carried

DISCUSSION

Nevena: I'll give it a go, I'll nominate myself here.

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	Desiree Fiaccabrino	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	2
Code & Policy		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	2
Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	5
Executive Oversight		Councillor	3
	Kieran Maheden	Ordinary Member	2
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3
House Finance		Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	1
Human Resources		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	5
Services		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	3
Strategic Planning ad-hoc		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1

MOVER: Kimani Karangu

SECONDER: Maria Jose Athie
Martinez

RESULT: Carried



FOR (15): Daniel He, Teesha Luehr, Perrin Waldock, Jin Wen, Younus Ahmed, Nevena Rebic, Kira Vandermeulen, Jenny Lee, William Canero, Taryn Scarff, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Aaron Loewen, Yundi Wang, Ashni Gill, Sofie McComb

DISCUSSION

Desiree: I'd like to nominate myself for AcEx.

Tayo: [in chat] EOC: Kieran Maheden.

Speaker: Does that person accept?

Tayo: Yes.

3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Human Resources Committee	Kimani Karangu
Academic & External Affairs Committee	Zakhar Krekhno

MOVER: Yundi Wang **SECONDER:** William Canero **RESULT:** Carried

FOR (16): Sofie McComb, Desiree Fiaccabrino, Jenny Lee, Maria Jose Martinez, Shayan Fahimi (proxy for Julia Burnham), Perrin Waldock, Yundi Wang, Taryn Scarff, Leila Matte-Kaci, Louise Harding, Younus Ahmed, Kira Vandermeulen, Teesha Luehr, Sandeep Gill, Aaron Loewen, Jin Wen; **ABSTAIN (1):** William Canero

DISCUSSION

Kimani: I would want to speak in regards to Human Resources Committee that has now survived a few months with no chair. And I want to encourage members who would feel like they have the capacity to take up the chairship position, because it is very, very important to experience that chairship kind of a situation, whereby you learn a lot. Like, currently, we are doing some interviews to fill out some positions, that's a great opportunity to learn how to interview people, how to go screening, and, you know, finally seeing that you hire somebody. So that's a great opportunity to do that, because we are in school, at some point will need to be employed, so you need to learn some skills on how to do that. And this position does give you that exact skill. And on top of that to be honest, you know, you get an opportunity to be able to work with a team, very dedicated teams within GSS. And yeah, I would say it's very, very fulfilling, by the end of the day, and given that in last council meeting, the President was given the go-ahead, to be able to contract somebody who could, or who can work hand in hand with the HR committee. So it will be an added advantage for whoever wants to take their position. So Madam Speaker, speaking highly highly in recommending somebody from the committee to be able to take up the position.



Speaker: Anybody else, anybody want to nominate yourself?

Kimani: I would like to speak again, please. Yeah, I think, given the urgency and everything that, you know, we've been waiting for, and given that there are no members willing to put themselves forward. I would like to maybe invoke or maybe go by section 7.8.4 of our policy manual that allows an executive to sit as a chair of a committee. I want to put myself in that position to be the chair of the HR committee policy. 7.8.4 allows for executive members to sit as a committee chair, if the terms of references to that committee do not say otherwise. And I believe human resource does not say otherwise or does not go contravening an executive sitting as a chair of that committee, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: I'm just checking if there is any procedural thing that we need to follow. It doesn't say that Council needs to vote you in, it doesn't describe any procedure, but just because we already in the Council meeting, which means that you could actually just do it without Council's approval Kimani because there's nothing stopping you to do that. But because we're already in Council, I'm just going to do that.

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 July 2022:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Society	Adenike Adelokun
Biomedical Engineering Graduate Association	Arman Adel
InterVarsity Graduate Student Fellowship	Julia Nakamura

MOVER: VP Students **SECONDER:** Aaron Loewen **RESULT:** Carried

FOR (12): Sofie McComb, Perrin Waldock, Leila Matte-Kaci, Sam Kenston, Taryn Scarff, Yundi Wang, Desiree Fiaccabrino, Jenny Lee, Louise Harding, Kira Vandermeulen, William Canero, Aaron Loewen

DISCUSSION

Sam: I'd like to congratulate our new affiliate organizations, and also note that some of our councillors' organizations affiliation has expired, so it will be good if we can follow up with our AO's and ask whoever is liaising with the GSS to know what is that status of our membership with GSS.



4.2 FINANCIAL AND EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Responsible: Kimani Karangu, GSS President; Governance and Accountability Committee

Description: Regular election and appointment of the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer by Council

Objective: Hold election and appoint the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Relevant Materials: [FEOO Candidate Statements - Folder](#)

Candidates: ~~Asel Primbetova, Esther Xu, Gara Dexter~~, Shayan Fahimi, Tayo Olarewaju

Majority in favour: Tayo Olarewaju

Results: Shayan Fahimi (11); Tayo Olarewaju (12)

DISCUSSION

Kimani: Following our bylaw that our FEOO will always be appointed in the July Council meeting and take office in August. I would wish, and we have already done the advertisement for this position, and a few candidates have applied to these positions, and those who have submitted their statements were put into the supporting documents. And I'm very sure most of us have gone through them. I would wish to move forward and invite you to lead the elections process as we have always done in the past.

Speaker: Okay, Kimani, just double check with you, three minutes per candidate to introduce themselves, and then question period will be one minute answer per person. Just to double confirm with you.

Shayan: Good evening. I want to thank the Council for hosting me today. My name is Shayan Fahimi. I'm a PhD student in Civil Engineering. I enjoyed GSS support during my study at UBC as a new graduate student and a newcomer to Canada. During the GSS orientation events, I learned a lot about UBC and found new friends, not mentioning all the free water bottles. The event had such an impact on me that I didn't lose a chance to become a volunteer in the GSS orientation event for the next two years. And also as a member of salsa club at UBC. After we lost access to our dancing room at nest, I talked with Pouya, then Vice President Students at GSS, and he kindly offered us the GSS ballroom with very little fee that helped us to continue our weekly sessions. I think FEOO position is unique as it assumes both financial reporting and oversight responsibility. With my experience in building financial models, making financial statements, and the support that I get from Council, I'm confident that I have the knowledge and the will to perform the duties. My plan is to ensure that the GSS budget is invested efficiently. And that means to sustainably support all day-to-day activities of the Society, as well as properly managing the assets we currently have. I'm going to support the executives to achieve the goals they have in mind when they started their terms by developing SMART goals, realistic budget estimations, and creating an inclusive environment where new ideas are welcome. As a university is starting in-person - [video freezes] - as the university is starting in-person classes and events and COVID is behind us, we need to accurately evaluate the direct and indirect impact of COVID and the GSS budget, and prepare a common vision that facilitates executive transition. We need to actively look for funding and student talent to support the goals of our executives and helps us effectively manage the assets we have. And of course, I'm going to make sure that we follow the policies, we follow the best practices, and we present a clear budgeting report and financial statement to the Council. Thank you.

Tayo: Hi councillors. Hi, I'm Tayo Olarwaju, I am a PhD student at the law school here at UBC, it's called Peter A. Allard School of Law and have served as the FEOO for one year. And I'm here to express interest to be the FEOO



for one more year. And the reason I've actually expressed an interest are first off to complete some ongoing projects. And some ongoing projects currently now are as advised by the auditors, which is to come up with a financial policy manual. We haven't had one. To my knowledge, we haven't had one since the GSS was actually established. And so I'm working on that and we almost have that accomplished, next stage is to have it reviewed and approved by the HR committee. And another ongoing project is we're actually working on improving executive work hours and remuneration, it hasn't been changed to my knowledge since 2005 and we recently, the EOC, the Executive Oversight Committee recently passed a resolution actually proposing some changes to our current bylaw provisions. And so those are some ongoing projects that I hope to be able to continue doing my next term. I also hope to have new goals, which include working on executive transition procedure, which I have become aware has certain gaps from my past experience. So while the FEOO position lies at the intersection of executive support, and improving the financials of the Society, I believe I have done a good job this past year, and I look forward to being able to do more for the incoming school year. Thank you.

Devarsh: Thank you so much. This is a question for both of you. This is an ongoing project that the House Finance committee has been working on. So what we are planning to do is basically we have a considerably large amount of funds in the range of \$250-500,000, that we are planning to invest in some different types of funds, mutual funds, or index funds or things like those in order to, first of all match the inflation rate so that we don't lose our value of money. And the second aspect is to have some sort of alternate source of revenue for GSS. So that with COVID impacts or any future impact that happened, we can have an alternate source of revenue. So I just want to hear about both of your thoughts around this, are there any other channels and mechanisms that are in your mind that GSS can probably adopt in order to meet these two goals, both to match inflation and second is to have an alternate source of revenue? So I would just be curious to hear your views on that.

Tayo: As I know you're aware, historically the GSS has put excess cash flow, cash funds, in bank accounts. And because of that there has been limited interest rates. And so my understanding is the previous government's GSS government, previous executives actually adopted the procedures of using GIC's and doing my term, I actually noticed that right now the GIC's rates are really low, less than 1%. And that in itself doesn't beat inflation. And so that was why we came up with the suggestion of actually having mutual funds, low to balance mutual funds with limited risk, and at the same time doing the two things that you've actually suggested, which is beating inflation and also having some returns. So at this point, right now, because of-

Speaker: Tayo, sorry, one minute's up.

Shayan: I think your point is very important that currently GIC is not the best solution for investing monies, we need to look for investing prudently in the mutual fund. Also we need to look for putting a small percentage into more risky investments that can help us to use the current environment in the financial market and increased the outcome. I think that the way that we are managing the monies is very not efficient and we need for the talent at UBC, the student talent as well and find people to who can guide us.

Kimani: Thank you for presenting yourselves today as our candidates for this important position. My question would be we are now headed to opening campus and we are trying to recover from the pandemic. We know many things are going to change in how we conduct ourselves in GSS including coming face to face, so I would want you to take one minute to explain to me a new idea that you would bring with you to the GSS that would help improve the quality of overseeing finances and supporting executives. And for Shayan for the clarity, we



have three Vice Presidents and one President and to add onto that we also have staff that work with us. 4 full-time staff, 10 work learns, 5 contractors. What new ideas would you bring onto the society to make sure this team works cohesively together, as well as taking care of our finances and overseeing this?

Shayan: I think the most important work is to build a common vision among executives in how they invest the budget they have to support students. And to develop an inclusive, supportive plan, we need to have a dialogue when we go to in-person, we need to make an environment to let everyone express what they think was the challenge in the previous year and how we can mitigate that and plan for that. We have a clean sheet right now to develop that. Based on my experience right now we need to –

Speaker: Sorry, time is up.

Tayo: Thanks for the question. So I have a couple of ideas. The first off is to actually ensure that the current proposal of EOC which looks at executive hours and remuneration is actually acted upon. We've had some conversation about that in the past, which is another reason why I contest again, to just ensure that going forward after the pandemic and even after that, that our executives are adequately recognized and also, yeah, adequately receive honoraria. The next will be to ensure that SMART goals set at the beginning of term are actually aligned with the strategic plan. So EOC you know plays a role in actually shaping what executives do the next year. So those are two main ideas.

Conny: Sarah, you need to be sponsored to speak because you're a current staff member, even though you're also a student.

Kimani: I invite her to speak.

Sarah: How does this role as FEOO tie into what you're currently studying and what are your next steps?

Tayo: So right now, I'm actually doing a PhD in law. But prior to coming to law school, I actually have a bachelor's in accounting and also a master's degree. So the FEOO, for me is actually an intersection of the finances, which is my accounting background and the legal aspect to address the executive oversight module where over the last year, the EOC has had to actually handle certain complaints. And, you know, that is administrative law. That's an area of law. And it also ties into my PhD work, which is international criminal law, which is ensuring that international law is actually used in a manner to attain justice all over.

Shayan: My major is engineering but I've been developing proposals, financial plans, before my PhD. When I came for PhD, that didn't happen much, but last year, I got a mini[?] MBA from Simon Fraser University, and after that, I started building a startup, I built a financial model and all that. COVID hit, we had some problems securing non-diluted funds, and I stopped doing that. I think this position helps me to execute the knowledge that I gathered on both taking care of finance, and also creatively using money in new streams.

Kimani: My question goes to both of you. In the Society, you expect that, you know, though people are working in a team, you expect sometimes there are quarrels here and there, there are conflicts here and there. I would want maybe you explain to us what are your principles? Or what are your tenants when it comes to conflict resolution? And especially maybe a resolution of maybe a conflict that involves the executives?

Shayan: I think there are some values that we need to always follow, such as being inclusive, and letting people express their ideas freely, then we need to in the conflict management, we need to focus on the point of



conflict. And we need to clarify what is the main reason and after doing that, there are a few paths that we can go. So either it's going to be a negotiation on which path is better, and then it comes on a feasibility study on budget estimation, and giving more information to both bodies to choose the best option. And I think if we give the information then everybody will agree on the best option.

Tayo: My tenants on conflict resolution are basically based on principles of fundamental justice. So yeah, basically two main principles which are that a party should not be a judge in hi own cost[?] and the other side should be heard before any decision is made. And so that's what I will try to do, right, make sure that both parties are heard and that an executive doesn't give a decision when he or she is concerned. And also in short, try to ensure that executives understand your practice, especially when it comes to the Executive Committee that the minority will get heard, but the majority should have their, which is a democratic principle that we should adhere to.

Sarah: My next question is, as FEOO you wear multiple hats, you oversee a committee and the finances, but you also work together as a team with your executives, as well as Council and all that good stuff. So can you tell me more about your experienced working as a team as well as overseeing a committee? And if you have, what you've learned from it, and what you'll bring to this role?

Tayo: So just so you're aware, there are actually conversations about splitting the role of the FEOO because as we know, the time requirement has been really on the high side. G&A is currently sponsoring an initiative to look into what should be split. And just so you know, I actually do support the initiative because of the long work hours involved. I think over the past year, the fact that past executive and I, we haven't seen eye to eye, we've had different views on some issues a number of times, but that doesn't necessarily negatively impact some work and getting the job done. And so I think my experience over this past yar speaks for me, thank you.

Shayan: I put some of my experiences in the statement and is available. I've been in the Scientific Association of Mechatronics back when I was in Iran, I've been leading teams here at UBC, TA teams. In the project we started last year, and unfortunately stopped, we have been a team of four with different goals in our minds and we had the opportunity to learn from each other and to grow, learn more things. I think everybody in that team is happy because of that opportunity and sad because we stopped prematurely.

Devarsh: This is a question for both of you. This is just to build upon my previous one. Currently, GSS has almost a million dollars in the bank, that we are more or less free to use, not free to use, but basically that we can put to use the way we want. So I would want to hear your views on what would be the top one, two, or maybe three top financial priorities that what do we use this money for?

Shayan: I think what are not doing right now is tapping into the talent we have at UBC to learn from the students who are currently managing their own portfolio. We should also look at ways we can support students via events, via funds. That doesn't mean we need to take money from that fund, we need to also actively look for funding because right now after COVID, they're available. And we need to support executives and Council members who have ideas about that. I think the main point here would be GSS is there for graduate students, so helping graduate students to be healthy, both mentally and physically is the most Important point, and then thinking about continuing our day to day jobs and activities.

Tayo: I do have a couple of ideas. The first is to ensure that we do have a contingency fund, right? Because things might not always be as rosy as right now. The GSS can get sued or something else. And so ensuring that



we do have a contingency fund around for the rainy day. The next will be I think, we have the GLC project coming up and for my estimation is likely the GSS might be asked to, you know, show some commitments, like spend a substantial amount of funds for that. Then, I think the next thing will be to ensure that executives are aware that they can actually prudently spend such funds, like existing funds, because we do give executives a lot of leeway in coming up with their own budgets and in actually controlling the departments. So just ensuring that executives know that these funds are available for them to actually-

Speaker: Sorry, thank you.

Kimani: I would want to ask Tayo a question and then ask a question of both of them, or maybe a clarification. Madam Speaker, he mentioned that in the past, maybe there have been issues that you know, between himself and the executive team did not have to agree on many issues. How does that one speak to teamwork? Like, does it seem like there is consultation gap that is happening at the GSS within the team? Or how would you explain that disparity as an FEOO who supports the executive team, how come? And the next question that will go to both of them is, how much time would they give to comfortably work for GSS with no complaints? And my final question, Madam Speaker, for this particular session would be, are you in Vancouver? Because this position would require somebody in Vancouver because of the transaction that happens in the bank.

Tayo: First question, whereas I'm speaking to how come there are certain views that I have disagreed with in the past despite the fact that I am in the team. And my response to that is, I think it's an essential part of being human, of being an individual. I don't think teamwork is that we see things the same way all the time but that even in the differences we can reach a consensus. I think that's teamwork. An example would be last Council, there was a motion proposed by G&A and you were in support, at the time I had a different perspective. But majority -

Speaker: Time's up, my apologies. Okay, the second question, Tayo goes first please.

Tayo: I'll say so far I've been putting way more hours than provided in the bylaws and which is why I actually support the initiative by G&A, that no one else has to go through this. So I think splitting the role and ensuring that executive oversight or executive support and financial are actually two different roles. Right now I do between 15 and 20 hours per week.

Shayan: I think this job has voluntary part as well as an obligatory part, so the hours that is in the bylaws is the obligatory, but as a GSS member, as a person who goes in to help with students in an event, I think it's important to understand that we need to also volunteer. And that's why I started right now, because now I'm in my final year, I have done most of the job, and I'm free to put more than the 6 hours mentioned. So I'm available, and I'm available on campus.

Speaker: Thank you, third question. Shayan goes first.

Sayan: Currently I don't live in Vancouver and live in Burnaby, but I travel to campus most days of the week because of research and just being in the office. I have no problem travelling every day to the campus as we start the in-person, as we get vaccinated.

Tayo: I currently stay in Vancouver.



Kimani: There was an issue that was spoken about the GLC, and I'm so sorry members for taking more time. But I think it's an obligation for me to always make things clear. There was an issue that was spoken about the GLC, the Graduate Life Center that we about to start doing the renovations and all that. When we started this project, we promised that we will not want to directly ask our students to finance this. And I think maybe we want to go back and start maybe fetching money from our accounts, that will be like fetching money from our own students that we promised to not go and ask you to finance this project. In other words, we were supposed to go out and look for monies from other institutions within campus, our key allies, noting that UBC and GSS are quite different, but we have the same membership. So I just wanted to make that one clear that our monies in the bank are not be used towards facilitating the renovation of the GLC unless we want a program that we can maybe use some of these monies, and I know we have the CPIF money which has been there for the purposes of improving this one. It can improve other areas, but when it comes to GLC, I think we'll not be leaving to our words to our students that we told that we'd not use that money for that purpose. But just want to make that one clear, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: No more questions, this is going to be an anonymous vote.

WHEREAS Bylaw 8.2.2 states that "the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer will be elected at the July council meeting and take office on August 31st", and

WHEREAS the position of Financial and Executive Oversight Officer has been advertised, and

WHEREAS Council has reviewed the statements and heard from all candidate(s) for the FEOO position,

BIRT GSS Council appoints **Tayo Olarewaju** to the position of Financial and Executive Oversight Officer, to take office on August 31st.

MOVER: Aaron Loewen

SECONDER: William Canero

RESULT: Carried

FOR (13): Younus Ahmed, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Jenny Lee, Leila Matte-Kaci, Axel Hauduc, Jin Wen, Kira Vandermeulen, William Canero, Yundi Wang, Taryn Scarff, Perrin Waldock, Aaron Loewen, Sofie McComb;

ABSTAIN (1): Davi Monticelli

DISCUSSION

Tayo: Thank you all for voting for me, and I also want to let Shayan know there are actually ways to get involved with the GSS, I'm aware that House Finance Committee currently has some seats and it would be great if you could please join HF or Executive Oversight.

Kimani: Thank you so much and congratulations Tayo, and thank you so much Shayan for putting such a good fight as well. And as Madam Speaker mentioned, it has never been that way. In fact, our last election that happened in that capacity, the second person got a zero. So thank you so much for doing that as well. And as members have expressed, the GSS is quite big and I'm very sure your knowledge and your time that you would want to dedicate and as you say that as a volunteer, there are many ways that you could contribute towards GSS. And I fiercely want to welcome you to join one of the committees that you feel you could contribute positively towards GSS positive experience. With that, Madam Speaker, I say congratulations to both of you.

Shayan: I also want to thank you all for hosting me and I look forward to joining the financial committee. And I want to congratulate Tayo, and it was a great event. I've never had a chance to see it live. So thank you.



4.3 G&A RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERVICES AND ELECTIONS

Responsible: Jin Wen, Governance and Accountability Committee Chair

Description: Presentation of options for Services and Elections Merger

Objective: Select an option for Services and Elections to pursue.

Relevant Materials: [Services Elections Merger Recommendations to Council July 15th 2021.pdf](#)

BIRT that Council select option 2c.i as the recommended action.

MOVER: Aaron Loewen

SECONDER: William Canero

RESULT: Carried

FOR (10): Leila Matte-Kaci, Yundi Wang, Sofie McComb, Daniel He, Aaron Loewen, Taryn Scarff, Kira Vandermeulen, Sandeep Gill, Jenny Lee, William Canero; **ABSTAIN (6):** Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Charfeddine Khalifa, Davi Monticelli, Perrin Waldock, Shayan Fahimi (proxy for Julia Burnham), Jin Wen

DISCUSSION

Aaron: Thank you for putting together these ideas into a document and going through all the possible options. I just want to quickly ask, maybe I missed it. But if we go with any of the “c” options, so this is not creating ad-hoc committees, or subcommittees, how would G&A operate SMART goals? Because I understand right now, both committees already have complete SMART goals moving forward, they would have likely the work that would probably equate to three SMART goals each, but we'd expect this converged committee to have more SMART goals in the end or more targets just because they take on more work, or is it just going to be something that maybe they are more specific with what they choose? It's not really a big question, but it's just something I want to get an idea as to what's the more important task because at that point, you have to choose whether or not their elections are Services-based goals, and that kind of shows a priority.

Jin: That's actually a really good question. So I think how we talked about it, how I envisioned this is that we wouldn't necessarily make the Services or the merged committee necessarily take on more SMART goals, but have more, I guess what you're saying, more targeted goals. And then I think the other thing is, when looking at Elections SMART goals over the past few years, a lot of them have been focused on engagement or getting X percent of the student body to participate in the election. And I think that, while those are good goals to have, I do think that can be more integrated into the Terms of Reference and part of their duty as a committee rather than a SMART goal, per se, just because the SMART goal is supposed to help work towards fulfilling the Strategic Plan. And while having increasing engagement does fill that to an extent, I do believe that the goal can be a little bit more targeted, and that we can work out some other- and we can embed the student engagement into the committee as a whole rather than have it be some goal that we're all working on.

Perrin: I have a couple of questions for Jin. Mostly, I'm just wondering, what is our timeframe for this? So are we planning on this becoming like effective, like immediately, or following the upcoming election? And also, with logistics, are you planning on maintaining Elections as chair or holding an election for who takes over as chair? So those are my two main questions on the logistics of how this merger would happen, should we proceed with option 2c.

Jin: I guess my answer to this is that I believe this is something that we're gonna have to work out more individually with. G&A will have to speak more directly to, consult Services and Elections more thoroughly and



then kind of see what's actually feasible and how to move forward with this. So G&A, for the last few months, G&A was tasked to evaluate whether it's feasible and make a recommendation for the merger itself, not necessarily the logistics or how we're going to do that. But you raise a good point, knowing that the elections are coming up next year. I believe once we choose an option, once Council decides on the option, G&A will work with the appropriate committees to fill out the Terms of Reference, as well as to figure out the other logistics of moving forward. I'm not sure if that completely answered his question, but I think that's all the information I currently have.

Devarsh: Thank you to Jin for the nice presentation and laying it out so clearly. This is just a clarification question, something along what you've mentioned. So I was just wondering, how will the capacity or the strength of the committee will work going forward, since two committees are involved? Are we looking at more members or increasing the capacity? I understand that Elections is quite vacant right now, but I just wanted to hear your thoughts on that.

Jin: That's an excellent question. G&A talked a little bit about this, and one of the ideas we had was not necessarily- because we recognized that combining the two committees together, we're essentially combining the amount of work of those two committees, we thought about potentially increasing the committee size for, if we were to merge, to 1.5 the times the amount of the current standing committee. However, again, I think, where we kind of stand is that we would like to do more further consultation with Services as well as Elections to kind of see what's actually feasible, also to see you know, within the people within the current committee, right, we don't want to get rid of the people who are already currently in these committees. So, we have to work with both, so we would consult and see one, how much work there feasibly is and how that division of labor could be, but also the- if we can, just because, you know, engagement is an ever present issue-I would like to retain the members of each committee. However, again, we have to do some further consultation to kind of see what's feasible.

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 BAKAU CONSULTING EDI AUDIT PRESENTATION

Responsible: Sarah Park, Acting Events Manager; Will Shelling, Bakau Consulting
Description: Presentation of results from EDI audit by Bakau Consulting
Objective: To inform Council of the results and recommendations of the EDI audit
Relevant Materials: [GSS Audit Presentation.pptx](#)

5.2 COMMITTEE SMART GOALS MIDTERM REVIEW

Responsible: Jin Wen, Governance and Accountability Committee Chair; Jenny Lee, G&A Deputy Chair
Description: Presentation SMART Goal Midterm Review
Objective: Inform council of committee progress
Relevant Materials: [2021-2022 SMART Mid Term Goal Review.pptx](#)



5.3 2021-22 EXECUTIVE GOALS - UPDATE

Responsible: Tayo Olarewaju, Executive Oversight Committee Chair

Time: 15 minutes

Description: 2021-22 Executives' Goals

Objective: Update on 2020-21 Executive goals

Relevant Materials: to be provided

5.4 JUNE 2021 GSS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Responsible: Tayo Olarewaju, Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

Time: 15 minutes

Description: June 2021 GSS Financial Overview

Objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures

Relevant Materials: to be provided

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Summer:**
 - Softball league from July 25th to August 21st
 - September Orientation (GSS will organize "Ask Me Anything Grad Students Panel", Campus tour, Vancouver city tour, museum tour)
- **Fall:**
 - Game night (trivia, bingo, board games, poker games, sing or dance challenge)
 - Cooking lesson/cocktail mix class/dinner party
 - Virtual jam session (night of live music/instrumentals)
 - Social Media Challenge (Tag GSS in a picture and you'll qualify to enter the draw)

6.2 EXECUTIVES

6.2.1 President

- **Council meetings:** in-person (hybrid) plans underway, most likely for October depending on AMS video conferencing equipment
- **VPUAA By-Election:** planning underway with FEOO, interim VPUAA and Elections Committee for September/October
- **Referendum:** planning underway with G&A, CPC, FEOO for September
- **Graduate Life Centre:** consulting with Jens Locher from G+PS about possibilities for an affordable food outlet; behind schedule for start date of design (scheduled for July 5)



6.2.2 FEOO

- Finalising discussion on GSS Accounting Policy Manual.
- Anchored discussions on 2021-22 executives' SMART Goals reviews.
- In collaboration with the Chair of HF, engaged in discussions with the GSS Bank advisors on investment options.
- In collaboration with the President and VP UAA, changed account signatories.

6.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

- **Executive Transition:** Currently the VP UAA is accomplishing the following tasks which may include but are not exclusive to: gaining familiarity with the role, transitioning, meeting important stakeholders, ensuring past GSS connections with various UBC working groups and other student governing bodies are maintained, etc.
- **Return to campus:** The VP UAA is participating in conversations surrounding appropriate safety measures which may include but are not exclusive to: ventilation, vaccination clinics, mental wellbeing of students returning to campus, etc. The "Return to Campus" survey, a carryover item from the preceding VP UAA is now closed and curation of a report from the responses received is being overseen.
- **Academic appreciation event:** VP UAA and GSS is planning the annual "Graduate Program Coordinator Appreciation Lunch" in August. The annual event will serve to introduce the GSS to Graduate Program Coordinators and thank them for their dedication to graduate students as generally their first point of contact throughout their degree.

6.2.4 VP External

- ABCS to present to council July 15 2021 on upcoming advocacy projects on behalf of graduate students at the GSS
- Analyzing 25 public post-secondary institutions' sexual violence policies (i.e. definitions, availability of resources and education/training)
- Consulting ABCS and Students for Consent Culture on possible angles for the report on sexualized violence
- Lobby days focus: mental health, sexual violence, EDI and anti-racism

6.2.5 VP Students

- I've been working with AOs.
- I am also contacting departments without affiliation with GSS to register as well as AOs whose membership has expired to renew their membership.

6.3 COMMITTEES

6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

- (none submitted)



6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- Minutes are backlogged and CPC is having technical problems that impair the ability to submit minutes.
- CPC has been working towards completing SMART goals.
- CPC has been working on fixing technical problems with online data storage.

6.3.3 Elections Committee

- (none submitted)

6.3.4 Executive Committee

- **Referendum:** planning underway with G&A, CPC, FEOO for September

6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- Conducted 2021-22 executives' mid-term reviews.
- Passed a resolution on executive work hours and remuneration.

6.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- G&A discussed the Services & Elections Merger, created a presentation on GSS SMART Goals' midterm review, and created a list of options for the FEOO position.

6.3.7 House Finance Committee

- (none submitted)

6.3.8 Human Resources

- (none submitted)

6.3.9 Services Committee

- Collaborated with Elections to produce a survey to gauge student engagement with the GSS and to determine the most efficient way to improve it.
- Evaluated SMART goal progress.
- Conducted preliminary planning for in-person events.
- Working on planning a back-to-campus barbecue with subsidized food.

6.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

- (none submitted)

6.3.11 AMS Caucus

- (none submitted)



6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

- Due to executive transition the Graduate Council Caucus has not conveyed for a meeting. A meeting has been called for and scheduled on July 20th. During this meeting, all members of the Graduate Council Caucus will be introduced to each other and the VP UAA. Both the VP UAA and the President will receive updates on what the caucus has been working on.

6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

6.4.1 Senators:

- (none submitted)

6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- (none submitted)

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, August 19 at 5:30 pm

Location: Online Via Teams

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Andrew Zang was unseated as Councillor from Services Committee.
- Bukola Mary Ibitoye was unseated as Ordinary Member from Academic and External Affairs Committee.
- Graham Donen was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
- Julia Burnham was unseated as Chair from Academic and External Affairs Committee.
- Julia Burnham was unseated as Councillor from Academic and External Affairs Committee.
- Maryam Tayyab was unseated as Departmental Representative for Biomedical Engineering.
- Mohammad Reza Karimi was unseated as Departmental Representative for Mechanical Engineering.
- Mohammad Reza Karimi was unseated as Councillor for House Finance Committee.

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **8:35 pm**.

MOVER: William Canero

SECONDER: Leila Matte-Kaci

RESULT: Carried