



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Andrew Zang, Ashni Gill, Axel Hauduc, Charfeddine Khalifa, Daniel He, Devarsh Bhonde (proxy for Davi Monticelli), Edgar Liao, Jackson Schumacher, Jin Wen, Kira Vandermeulen, Leila Matte-Kaci, Louise Harding, Nevena Rebic, Perrin Waldoock, Sam Kenston, Sandeep Gill, Saumadritaa Kar, Shiva Zargar, Taryn Scarff, Temitayo Olarewaju, William Canero, Younus Ahmed, Yundi Wang, Zakhar Krekhno; Shayan Fahimi

**Regrets:** Aaron Loewen, Kimani Karangu, Sofie McComb

**Absent:** Adenike Adelakun, Aditi Nagaraj Nallan, Anurag Krishna, Bethany Adair, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Desiree Fiaccabrino, Georgia Yee, Ginny Pichler, Hannah Green, Jenny Lee, Julia Burnham, Lisa White, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Maryam Tayyab, Max Holmes, Mohamed Kamel, Rachel Phillips, Teesha Luehr, Torin McLachlan

**Quorum:** 19 Councillors

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order **at 6:13 pm**.

[**NOTE:** Started at 5:45 without quorum, to allow guest presentation]

## 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 CAMPUS VISION 2050

**Responsible:** UBC Campus + Community Planning - Joanne Proft (Associate Director, Community Planning), Aviva Savelson (Senior Manager, Public Engagement), Madeleine Meek (Manager, Engagement); GSS – Kimani Karangu, President

**Description:** UBC's Campus and Community Planning (C+CP) is preparing to undertake a comprehensive campus-wide land use planning process called Campus Vision 2050. Staff from C+CP will join the GSS to raise awareness of C+CP's work, provide an overview of Campus Vision 2050, answer any questions, and understand how the GSS would like to engage through this process. As background, Campus Vision 2050 is a 2.5 year planning process that will launch early 2022. It is an important opportunity to plan for the evolving needs and aspirations of the university and its community, including how the campus can accommodate future academic needs, UBC's deepening relationship with Musqueam, housing affordability, community well-being, and climate change.

**Relevant Materials:** [20210811-CV 2050 Overview Roadshow-GSS.pdf](#)

## DISCUSSION

[**NOTE:** Discussion held without quorum]



**Zakhar:** Thanks for the presentation. I have a question as part of your vision. Are you considering noise pollution in your plans?

**Joanne:** Could you say a little more about that?

**Zakhar:** Noise from construction.

**Joanne:** We're interested in hearing everybody's reflections on their experience on campus. I think the underlying issue there is, you know, how we manage construction and the impacts of construction. So, I think that's something that we would want to hear anyway, as it relates to sort of a long range land use plan, I would say it's more a ongoing operational thing that we need to kind of understand and definitely, if there are concerns, then we want to hear about it.

**Yundi:** I just wanted to say thank you so much for this presentation, it really shapes, in many ways what the vision is in the next 50, some years. So I wanted to thank you for that. And I also wanted to thank you for including graduate students, and, as well, the GSS in these conversations, which seems to be ongoing. And it's great to hear that we will be a part of all of these conversations moving forward. If you could potentially speak to whether or not within these plans are plans to portion off land to examine sustainable energy usage or generation of energy, maybe in-house from a sustainable method?

**Joanne:** Wow, you ask the hard questions. Are you talking about renewable energy and different types of like, you know, solar power, wind power? The campus, I think it's something that could be explored as, you know, something that the university should pursue, as part of the conversation. Currently we have a district energy system, so we've been moving to a more sustainable form of sort of supplying energy to campus. And we also have, for the neighborhood's we have, it's like LEED for, you know - Leadership and Energy and Environmental Design - it's a set of guidelines for the neighborhood buildings, to advance to much more energy-efficient building design, and infrastructure delivery. But we're also a university and we want to be advancing innovation in areas that support our strategic goals. So at this point, what you're asking is, are we going to develop specific solutions towards sustainable energy, and that could come out of the process, but at this point, we're defining kind of what the process will look at, and then hear from the community what's important to them. So if that comes out of the process as something important, it could potentially come out of the process, if that makes sense.

**Yundi:** Okay, awesome. Thank you so much again, and wonderful presentation.

**Joanne:** Well thank you and I am very happy to hear that the GSS is keen to be involved because we are keen to work with you.

**Madeleine:** Also I'll just note that the Climate Action Plan 2030 is being finalized this fall and we will, with Campus Vision, will be linking up with that work and that sits under Campus and Community Planning in one of our groups that focuses on sustainable energy. So keep on the lookout for the Climate Action Plan work as well because it's very much in line.

**Yundi:** Thank you so much for that information. That's great to hear that there are initiatives or thoughts being put in place surrounding sustainable and renewable energy. Look forward to seeing those pieces and collaborating on that.



**Leila:** I just wanted to ask about construction materials if that's part of your climate plan?

**Joanne:** In terms of embodied energy?

**Leila:** In terms of using concrete and things like this that are destructive.

**Joanne:** I'm not as connected to the Climate Action Plan but I believe construction is part of it and embodied energy in different construction materials. So the Climate Action Plan is actually being finalized over the next couple months and will be going to board. But we can, if you reach out with an email, we can get back with you to you with an email response. I just don't want to say anything incorrect.

**Aviva:** I'll just add to that. We also have a green building action plan that talks a lot about the materials and the commitment around what materials to use in building. So they're all very connected together. You know, how we use our land, how we're addressing the climate emergency, what the university is doing for its own campus lands, and then kind of scales them down to at the building scale to so they're just increasing scales and scopes.

[End of non-quorate discussion item]

## SPECIAL RULES ADOPTION

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**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:** Yundi Wang

**RESULT:** Carried

## AGENDA ADOPTION

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

**MOVER:** Jin Wen

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried

## DISCUSSION

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**Jin:** I was wondering if it's okay with Devarsh, if we can move the FEOO discussion before we talk about investing. Motion to amend to switch 5.2 with 5.1.

**MOVER:** Jin Wen

**SECONDER:** Devarsh Bhonde

**RESULT:** Carried, no objections



## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Yundi:** On behalf of the UBC GSS, I would like to acknowledge that UBC's Vancouver Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. I would also like to acknowledge that you are joining us today from probably many places near and far, and we acknowledge the traditional owners and caretakers of those lands. Thank you.

## INTRODUCTIONS

[Introductions]

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

- [July 15, 2021](#)

**MOVER:** William Canero

**SECONDER:** Leila Matte-Kaci

**RESULT:** Carried

### 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>		<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	June 15, 2021; June 24, 2021; July 6, 2021; July 27, 2021
<b>Code and Policy Committee:</b>	June 9, 2021; June 23, 2021; July 28, 2021	<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	
<b>Elections Committee:</b>		<b>Services Committee:</b>	June 16, 2021
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	July 9, 2021	<b>AMS Caucus:</b>	
<b>Executive Oversight Committee:</b>		<b>Graduate Council Caucus:</b>	
<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	June 9, 2021; July 8, 2021; July 22, 2021	<b>Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:</b>	
<b>All-Chairs Meeting:</b>	July 9, 2021		



**MOVER:** William Canero

**SECONDER:** Perrin Waldock

**RESULT:** Carried

## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 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	1
Graduate Council		Representative	2
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

**MOVER:** William Canero

**SECONDER:** Jackson  
Schumacher

**RESULT:** Carried

### 3.2 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

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

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

**BIRT** the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External Affairs		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	2
Code & Policy		Councillor	4
	Daniel He	Ordinary Member	2
Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	5
Executive Oversight		Councillor	4
	Daniel He	Ordinary Member	1
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	1
	Kieran Maheden	Ordinary Member	3
House Finance		Councillor	4



	Shayan Fahimi	Ordinary Member	1
Human Resources		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	5
Services		Councillor	3
	Daniel He	Ordinary Member	5
Strategic Planning ad-hoc		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1

**MOVER:** Devarsh Bhonde      **SECONDER:** Yundi Wang      **RESULT:** Carried

### 3.3 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

**BIRT** the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Human Resources Committee	

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

### DISCUSSION

**Yundi:** So we've been through this process a couple of times now. And I'm sure you've heard President Kimani speak towards this. And tonight I am pleading and asking everyone to please consider nominating themselves for the chair of the Human Resources Committee. The staff at the GSS really cannot truly function without such a committee. And it's to the best interest of everyone that one of our executives not take this decision. And so I would really urge you all to consider nominating yourself. The HR committee is an incredibly essential committee on the GSS. And taking this on will really give you an insider's view on how to conduct interviews, it's really helpful both from a professional development and communication process to be able to sit on the other end and really listen to applicants present themselves so if you're interested in applying for jobs or internships, I highly encourage you to consider joining the HR committee as chair. It's a great, wonderful opportunity to develop to develop some of those communication skills.

**Speaker:** Motion carried, and I have received a notice that Kimani wants to be nominated for the chair of Human Resources Committee. So I will need a motion to reconsider this motion.

#### **Motion to reconsider the motion (special resolution):**

**MOVER:** Yundi Wang      **SECONDER:** Devarsh Bhonde      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (11):** Leila Matte-Kaci (Invité), G&A Chair, Andrew Zang (Guest), HF Chair, Louise Harding (Guest), Nevena Rebic (Guest), Kira Vandermeulen (Guest), Taryn Scarff (Guest), Ashni Gill, Edgar Liao (Guest), Yundi Wang;

**ABSTAIN (1):** William Canero



## DISCUSSION

**Speaker:** So we're back at the beginning where this motion now reads Kimani.

**BIRT** the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Human Resources Committee	Kimani Karangu

**MOVER:** Devarsh Bhonde      **SECONDER:** Yundi Wang      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (12):** Sandeep Gill (Guest), Louise Harding (Guest), Kira Vandermeulen (Guest), Leila Matte-Kaci (Invité), Andrew Zang (Guest), Taryn Scarff (Guest), G&A Chair, Ashni Gill, Nevena Rebic (Guest), HF Chair, Yundi Wang, Edgar Liao (Guest); **ABSTAIN (1):** William Canero

## 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 August 2022:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association	William Porter
HLI Trainee Association	Katrina Besler
African Graduate Students (AfriGS) of Acadia	Jean Damascene Makuza
Counselling Psychology Students Association	Alejandra Botia

**MOVER:** VP Students      **SECONDER:** Jin Wen      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (10):** Louise Harding (Guest), Younus Ahmed (Guest), Nevena Rebic (Guest), Edgar Liao (Guest), Andrew Zang (Guest), Services Chair, Ashni Gill, Taryn Scarff (Guest), Yundi Wang, William Canero (Guest)

## DISCUSSION

**Perrin:** Shouldn't it read July instead of June?

**Speaker:** Seconded by Yundi.

**Motion to amend from June to July.**



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**Speaker:** I got information from Victoria, that should be August. I need a councillor to propose the change. Yundi is proposing a secondary amendment on the amendment of July to August. Seconded by Jin.

**Motion to amend the amendment to:** Motion to amend from June to August.

**MOVER:** Yundi Wang                      **SECONDER:** Jin Wen                      **RESULT:** Carried, none opposed

[Reposted:] **Motion to amend from June to July August.**

**MOVER:** Perrin Waldock                      **SECONDER:** Yundi Wang                      **RESULT:** Carried, none opposed

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 OPTIONS FOR SEPARATING FEOO POSITION

**Responsible:** Jin Wen, Governance and Accountability Committee Chair

**Time:** 15 minute presentation, 15 minute discussion

**Description:** Presentation of options for potentially splitting the FEOO position

**Objective:** Present options for splitting FEOO and open the floor for discussion. The official vote will take place during the referendum in September.

**Relevant Materials:** [Potential FEOO Options.pdf](#)

#### DISCUSSION

**William:** I'm assuming we're going to get clarity on the roles of the VP Finance this coming September?

**Jin:** Yes, after this meeting we will do more in-depth consultation with Kimani as well as the current FEOO to see how we would divide the duties.

**Edgar:** Thank you for you and your committee's work on this. My only suggestion is to cut out a number of options for the referendum because, you know, some of the options seem to be untenable, because they are based on the GSS attracting the right candidate and having the right conditions for the candidate to operate effectively. So I would suggest maybe cutting down the options. And I think that the options to entry sounds more feasible.

**Jin:** I agree, I think have less options, we'll narrow down the options and make it a little more concise.

### 5.2 INVESTMENT IN MUTUAL FUND PORTFOLIOS

**Responsible:** Devarsh Bhonde, House Finance Chair

**Description:** Presentation

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Objective:** Inform the GSS members about the House Finance Committee's recommendations to investment in mutual fund portfolios.





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**Relevant materials:** [GSS Council Presentation - Mutual Fund Investments.pptx](#); [Investment Funds Portfolios and Information.zip](#)

## DISCUSSION

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**Andrew:** Thank you, Devarsh. That was a really interesting presentation. It looks like you guys put a ton of work into this. So that's really awesome. I always get pretty excited and nervous when I hear about this amount of money moving around and I've actually a few questions for you. The first, as you mentioned, there's \$500,000 sitting in the chequing account. I'm curious why that wasn't invested in the GIC, like the \$250k that you showed. The other question is you arrived at a number of six months for the backup, I was actually part or I'm still part of an AMS club that actually runs a shop in the Nest and our motto was we'd build up as much of a cushion as we could, which ended up really coming in handy for the COVID situation, we had enough money to maintain the rentals maintain the employees, and maintenance and all that on our gear. So I'm kind of wondering why the six month number. And the final question is you said a lot of these, actually, all of these investments are going to be immovable. And so in that case, I imagine the interest is going to be pretty significantly lower than if they were kind of like a fixed term. So I'm curious how come you're not doing any fixed term even with like even a small chunk of that total budget.

**Devarsh:** Let me address it one by one. The first one, what are we doing with this \$500K or why is it just sitting there. A quick backstory on that is that just like one or two years back, we were not even investing any amount in GIC's as well. Every money we had, there's just no precedence. This is basically like, nobody [inaudible] in the past, you know? And that's why it just was kept there, the previous President and FEOO invested at least \$250 into GIC to try and secure it. But we arrived at the conclusion more or less, that is still not the best option. So that's why the \$500,000 is still there. Does that answer the first question, or do you have any comment on that?

**Andrew:** No I was just curious, but I guess in the past there was no precedent for that investment.

**Devarsh:** The second thing of the backup, like why \$250 or six month backup. So this is what I want to point out with GIC's, usually it is a fixed term investment, generally speaking, like, you know, whatever money you put in, for example, this \$250,000 that is there, it might get logged for one year or three year or five year term period, whatever it is, based on what we selected. The thing with mutual fund investments is that it is not restricted. You know, if tomorrow we decide, we can withdraw it. So in spite of having that cushion, why are we having a six month backup. For example, in next month, let's say something goes wrong, the markets are just down, this \$200,000 that we are going to invest tomorrow, per se, let's say just because of bad market, that has become \$190,000, or we just lost some money on that. So in the short term, we just want to sort of, you know, buff it out, more or less. And that's why we tried to have a six month period that these expenses can be covered. But if you think about it this way, in the first year, we are technically just investing \$200,000. So the rest money is still in the chequing account. This is a five year plan, per se. So yeah. Does that answer the second question or any comments or anything on that?

**Andrew:** I guess, quick extension of that would be why not like a longer period. Is six months long enough to be guaranteed to be safe, or why did you arrive at six months for that number?

**Devarsh:** This is my personal opinion. Actually, we don't really need to even do a six month because since the money is not getting locked in any way, shape or form, we could have always put in the whole amount. It's just



to sort of pacify everyone that since this is the first time and being overly conservative, we came up or basically arrived at that.

**Andrew:** Third question was the fact that the money was movable, whether or not you considered, like locking in a certain amount into immovable GIC's and things like that?

**Devarsh:** That's a very good point. So you know, what we will do actually, is that now, technically, based on this plan, \$800,000 amount will still be just, you know, sitting in the chequing account. So what the FEOO and President and all the signing officers will basically plan to do is put, again \$250,000 or similar amount in GIC's just so that, you know, we don't keep on losing money on that \$800,000 amount. Does that sound good?

**Andrew:** Yeah, that does answer my question. You do have kind of plans to maybe put some in in the future, but currently, you're just looking at this chunk of it.

**Perrin:** Are you only considering funds that Scotiabank offers or are you also looking for funds from other brokers?

**Devarsh:** So we did actually look at one other fund, which was BlackRock, one of our committee members tried to compare that these portfolios that we have selected, are there any comparable ones for some other broker that can help with. More or less, that is the same and one benefit of just doing it with Scotiabank is that our money's already there, you know, we have the corporate account there. So we have like direct on-call access, more or less, roughly speaking. So that's why we went with Scotia. But we did consider some other brokers as well. But, broadly speaking, at the end of the day, what happens is that these funds, which are comprised of like, the individual stocks that are comprised of that are included in this mutual fund, per se, more or less everyone does the same thing. Very broadly speaking, so, yeah, that is just the reason that we went with Scotia, because we already have our money there and it's just operationally easier. Yeah. And we did consider BlackRock though.

**Edgar:** Thank you so much for that excellent, comprehensive work. I totally love making money, which is why I did a PhD in the humanities. And I was curious, I was under the impression that the GSS is currently looking into redeveloping the [Thea] Koerner House together with the university. And I was wondering what will this investment do for our ability to make a financial commitment to that project, if we only have about \$300k in a capital investment fund, so would that in a way affect our ability to make a substantial financial commitment to the project to the redeveloped Koerner House?

**Devarsh:** That's a good question. So the thing is that the GSS life building project, the plan is that it will be completely funded by UBC, like GSS will not be putting any money in it, except buying some furniture If required, but it will be completely funded through UBC. So that is the understanding as of now. So we are good on that aspect. We don't need to put any money in that eventual construction renovation that is coming up.

**Axel:** I was just wondering if in if there were any financial products that were offered that were like really focused on sustainability, as well, that might have come across? Like, throughout this search, I saw that there was like the sustainability rating. But I guess just like for these kinds of products that are marketed to larger funds like ours, is there anything that might exceed what's being offered here by brokers like Scotiabank, and BlackRock, potentially?



**Devarsh:** So, are there basically any other mutual funds, which have better sustainability rating? Or which just invest in clean energy kind of companies? Is that sort of the question? Yeah. So since each of these funds have, you know, 200, 300 companies. So in order to categorize it, what they will try to do is basically try to segment it into some type of market. So what kind of sector does it lie in?, I don't exactly know how to calculate the sustainability rating through this. But the funds which have very high rating will have very less investment, this is my personal observation, again, take it with a grain of salt. So it will have less investment in energy-related stuff like that, basically. Okay, so from our end, the due diligence that we could do was basically there's this standardized rating that the industry has created, that more or less every mutual fund uses this Morningstar sustainability rating. And basically we went by that, we more or less trust that.

**William:** It was a great presentation. I really appreciate it. I looked a little bit into Morningstar, as we were asking questions, is it possible to get updates on the rating those companies received with every finance report? If we choose to invest in mutual funds.

**Devarsh:** We definitely can, like in the portfolio report, they will usually have the ratings somewhere. So definitely, we can get that, not for every single company, because you know, there are 500 companies, or 200, depending on what the fund is. But for the collection or that basket, we will get the rating. And that we can always include in our documentation that we are doing, the presentations that we are doing.

**William:** That's great to hear, because as we're looking towards thinking for the strategics, the strategy of the GSS, in the next five years, where we're investing, particularly in the green economy, is an aspect of that strategy. So we want to be able to justify that to our stakeholders.

**Tayo:** I basically want to say thank you, thank you to the chair of HF, Devarsh, and all the members of HF, we have worked very closely on this and had numerous meetings, and, you know, actually gone through this again, and again, and again. So I just want to say thank you to the amazing work everyone has basically made this known throughout this presentation. I do also want to just clarify a previous answer given which put some clarity on why we currently have about \$500,000 in our main account, right? Because what usually happens is that we do have the option of [inaudible] such a month's over, but as Devarsh mentioned, due to the current rates, which is less than 0.5%. It just didn't make sense to commit such amounts. We could have done like \$500,000 into another GIC with such low rates. And so we decided to actually hold on and since it was actually a SMART goal of HF to come up with this this year, we had suspected that we're going to have this kind of conversation sometime, sometime down the line. And it's great that we currently are having it. So that's another reason why we do have huge amounts in our current accounts.

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### 5.3 2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

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

**Time:** 10 minute presentation + 15-20 minute discussion

**Description:** Strategic Plan Progress Overview + Feedback Discussion

**Objective:** To update the Council on Strategic Plan progress, solicit verbal feedback and discussion on plan items, and encourage Council members and especially Committee chairs to review the Strategic Plan (especially one's recommended section) as soon as possible.

**Relevant Materials:** [2021-08-19 Axel Strat Plan Overview Presentation.pptx](#)



## Motion to extend presentation time by 5 minutes.

**MOVER:** William Canero

**SECONDER:** Jackson  
Schumacher

**RESULT:** Carried, none opposed

## 5.4 2021-22 EXECUTIVE GOAL PRESENTATION (VPUAA AND VP STUDENTS)

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**Responsible:** Executive Oversight Committee

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Description:** 2021-22 Executives' Goals (VP UAA and VP Students)

**Objective:** Update on 2020-21 Executive goals.

**Relevant Materials:** (none submitted)

## 5.5 VPUAA ADVOCACY PIECES

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**Responsible:** Yundi Wang, VP University and Academic Affairs

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Description:** Presentation to Council for briefing purposes

**Objective:** Provide information about advocacy pieces the VPUAA will focus on

**Relevant Materials:** (none submitted)

## DISCUSSION

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**William:** I'd like to take this to a vote of confidence because the Planning Student Association is currently in debate about whether we should be having in-person meet and greets for first-years and we would most likely take GSS direction depending on advocacy on whether we do have that in-person or online. So I'd like to see what Council decides.

**Speaker:** So you are moving a motion? What would the motion read? So William, did I understand you correctly that you are putting on the motion to the recommendation that's made on Yundi's slides?

**William:** Yeah, that's right.

**Speaker:** I'm going to share my screen so everybody can see what motion I've drafted up. William, now the motion I drafted for you reads:

**BIRT** the Council directs VPUAA to:

- advocate for mask usage and physical distancing on campus
- advocate for hybrid learning and teaching models of higher education

**Speaker:** Does that reflect what you would like?

**William:** That's great. And if Council decides that this is something we do want to advocate for, I'll take it to the Planning Students Association. I will make a separate vote on whether we will follow this guidance.



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**Speaker:** I need a seconder for this one and I'll explain how it works. Seconded by Louise Harding.

## DISCUSSION

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**Axel:** Recently, President Ono came out in support of both mandatory masking and mandatory vaccination on campus and didn't mention physical distancing and I think that the at least the physical distancing portion comes from the fact that now that we know that COVID-19, especially delta is coming to light is spread through aerosols, rather than respiratory droplets that actually ventilation more than physical distancing seems to be having more of an impact. But just kind of going back to the core demand, I was wondering if we didn't want to align the motion more with what the President is asking for with regards to masking and vaccines over masking and physical distances, per se.

**Speaker:** Are you proposing an amendment or just a comment?

**Axel:** I'm proposing an amendment to the BIRT clause.

**Speaker:** I'm not totally understanding what you're trying to propose so I'm not in the position to draft for you at this moment.

**Axel:** "Advocate for mask and vaccine mandate".

[drafting continues]

### Motion to amend to:

**BIRT** the Council directs VPUAA to:

- advocate for ~~mask usage and physical distancing~~ **masking and vaccine mandates** on campus
- advocate for hybrid learning and teaching models of higher education

**Speaker:** I need a seconder before you motivate. Seconded by William Canero.

## DISCUSSION

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**Yundi:** Just have a clarification question and a few points for Axel here. In regards to vaccine mandate, just so I understand what that includes, would that just be for graduate students or in the case that graduate students have dependents - could you clarify, because who would this be targeted to, whether or not masking would be for everyone on campus and whether or not vaccines would be for everyone who wants to come on campus, just to help.

**Speaker:** This wording reads to me, as a Speaker, as everybody who is physically on campus, that's how it reads to me. If that's not the intention of Axel's proposal then we should discuss.

**Axel:** Just from seeing what's been coming out of like the University of Toronto, like the universities in Alberta, all the other ones. It seems to be, they're talking about anyone that's present on campus. So my suggestion, and I'm not like a policy expert here, but I would just suggest that we align our advocacy with that. I think that our voice would be stronger if it was in unison with what President Ono was talking about, and what I believe



there's another advocacy group for faculty members that has also made a similar demand in recent days. So just anyone on campus, yeah.

**William:** Did your survey include anything about vaccines? Like what was the polling data on support for vaccines on campus, for a mandate for vaccines on campus?

**Yundi:** To provide background, part of the reason why the language of the original piece in my PowerPoint was regarding masking and physical distancing was because vaccines were regrettably not something that we had examined. So those unfortunately, vaccines was not something that was examined in the survey, which is why the original piece that I could come up with, without discussion with at least at AcEx, or in this case, Council was that piece.

**Nevena:** I wanted to echo what has been said with the update. I don't know whether we're going to have a discussion point about this but since we've turned it into a motion, I've been kind of following what the AMS has been advocating for and what kind of several of the bodies and professors at UBC have been kind of proposing given sort of everything that's been going on lately, and our delayed update on our post secondary sort of vaccine mandates and mask mandates. But I think what I wanted to say was to just echo the point that if this kind of resolution is going to be regarding what we want our VPUAA to advocate for to the university in line with what is going on right now in a timely manner, and maybe wasn't at the forefront when this survey was taken. I know that the major kind of parties involved are advocating for proof of vaccination and as well as mandatory masks on campus, so I would also kind of strongly recommend for us to push this. I know that a lot of places- and I would say that this is extremely urgent, too, because I know, like it's been said, several universities across Canada, except for those in our province have started to take make these changes. And I think there's a lot of focus on the debate on adding vaccines to the efficacy. So what I'm trying to say is I think it's important for us to add that proof of vaccination point there. And the mask mandate one in terms of what we want to advocate for, for graduate students, and I think we can coordinate with the AMS on this because I know they're doing stuff related to this as well. But it doesn't necessarily have to be towards graduate students only since these are kind of all-around principles to be taken into consideration when coming back in September.

**William:** Those are all great points, thank you. Do we have to amend the motion for that to occur or can that just be a directive for the VPUAA to do in order for this advocacy to take into effect, like do we need another motion to amend? I propose we keep Axel's amendment and instead use what Nevena has said as suggestions, the specifics and the suggestions on how to advocate that, as directives for the VPUAA to follow through on.

**Speaker:** Hold that thought, because we're debating on one amendment right now, I'll deal with your amendment proposal when we finished this one.

[Reposted:] **Motion to amend to:**

**BIRT** the Council directs VPUAA to:

- advocate for ~~mask usage and physical distancing~~ **masking and vaccine mandates** on campus
- advocate for hybrid learning and teaching models of higher education

**MOVER:** Axel Hauduc

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried



**FOR (5):** Axel Hauduc, Nevena Rebic, Perrin Waldock, Taryn Scarff, William Canero; **AGAINST (1):** Leila Matte-Kaci; **ABSTAIN (1):** Yundi Wang

**William:** I propose we keep it as it is and the item that Nevena has said about proof of vaccination and where we should be advocating to, that just remains as something the VPUAA takes note of as directives for advocacy.

**Speaker:** Okay so no changes. Anyone else want to speak on the motion as a whole? Okay let's vote.

[Reposted:]

**BIRT** the Council directs VPUAA to:

- **advocate for masking and vaccine mandates on campus**
- advocate for hybrid learning and teaching models of higher education

**MOVER:** William Canero      **SECONDER:** Louise Harding      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (5):** Nevena Rebic, Taryn Scarff, Perrin Waldock, Ashni Gill, Axel Hauduc; **ABSTAIN (3):** Leila Matte-Kaci, William Canero, Yundi Wang

## 5.6 AUGUST 2021 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**Responsible:** Financial and Executive Oversight Officer

**Description:** August 2021 GSS Financial Overview

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Objective:** Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures

**Relevant materials:** (none submitted)

## 6 MATTERS TO NOTE

*Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.*

### 6.1 UPCOMING EVENTS

- (none provided)

### 6.2 EXECUTIVES

#### 6.2.1 President

- Advocating to relevant offices following the return to campus and the Anti-racism reports.
- Working closely with GPS to speed up the GLC project
- Planning for a consultation meeting with GPS regarding the new (I)BOPC Award

#### 6.2.2 FEOO

- In collaboration with the Chair of HF, engaged in discussions with the GSS Bank advisors on investment options.



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- Effected or reviewed financial transactions at the GSS.

### 6.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

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- **Return to campus:** The VP UAA has distributed and/or presented the “Return to Campus” report to various UBC working groups and other student governing bodies which include but are not limited to G+PS, ADA-ADS, AMS, VP Students Office, etc. The VP UAA is participating in conversations to advocate for safe return to campus based on the survey results (i.e. physical distancing + masks, hybrid teaching/learning, etc.).
- **SMART Goal submission:** The VP UAA has submitted and received approval of SMART Goals from FEEO and EOC. Briefly the goals are as follows:
  1. Re-establish VP UAA + GSS connections with UBC and implement an effective system for onboarding of future VP UAAs
  2. Establish a greater GSS presence/connection with graduate programs and review/be involved in training of new Graduate Program Advisors
  3. Advocate for equitable, safe and inclusive return to campus and beyond
- **Academic appreciation event:** The VP UAA is co-hosting an appreciation event with G+PS for Graduate Advisors and Program Coordinators on Sept. 16th. This is an annual appreciation event which has been extended to Graduate Advisors this year and seeks to establish a greater GSS presence/connection with graduate programs and thank graduate programs for their dedication to students.
- **See Graduate Council Caucus section** for re-establishment of lost connections with G+PS

### 6.2.4 VP External

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- (none provided)

### 6.2.5 VP Students

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- Coordinating with UBC REC for grad swimming day and Fall classes/events
- Working on September orientation
- Engaging Service committee to understand what grad students want

## 6.3 COMMITTEES

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### 6.3.1 Academic & External Committee

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- (none provided)

### 6.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

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- CPC has been primarily working on Bylaw and Policy updates regarding executive hours and remuneration, as well as starting to discuss the merging of the Services and Elections committee.

### 6.3.3 Elections Committee

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- (none provided)

#### **6.3.4 Executive Committee**

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- (none provided)

#### **6.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee**

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- Conducted initial goal reviews for the 2021-22 VP UAA.
- Reviewed and commented on the proposed Strat plan.

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

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- (none provided)

#### **6.3.7 House Finance Committee**

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- Budget Actuals for June 2021 approved during July 24, 2021, HF Committee meeting
- The HF Committee approved an overall expense of \$500,000 for investment in mutual fund portfolios on August 10, 2021. The investment is required to be made as per the following schedule:
  - Year 1 (Aug 2021) – A total of \$200,000 to be invested that consists of \$100,000 to be invested in a 3-to-5-year portfolio consisting of 80% assets in the Scotiabank “Dynamic U.S. Balanced Class Ser A” fund and 20% assets in the “Scotia Selected Balanced Income A” fund. The rest \$100,000 to be invested in an Over 5-year portfolio consisting of 50% assets in the “Scotia US Equity Index A” fund, 25% assets in the “Dynamic Dividend” fund, and 25% assets in the “Scotia Global Growth A” fund. (link to the portfolio).
  - Year 2 (Aug 2022) – A total of \$100,000 to be invested such that \$50,000 is invested in a 3-to-5-year portfolio and \$50,000 is invested in an Over 5-year portfolio.
  - Year 3 (Aug 2023) – A total of \$100,000 to be invested such that \$50,000 is invested in a 3-to-5-year portfolio and \$50,000 is invested in an Over 5-year portfolio.
  - Year 4 (Aug 2024) – A total of \$100,000 to be invested such that \$50,000 is invested in a 3-to-5-year portfolio and \$50,000 is invested in an Over 5-year portfolio.
- Additionally, the HF Committee and FEEO are directed to conduct a review of the mutual fund portfolios during June-July of each year in association with the Investment Specialist from the representative bank to ensure that both the 3-to-5-year portfolio and Over 5-year portfolio have optimum and intended performance.

#### **6.3.8 Human Resources**

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- Preparations to conduct interview for the 5 WL positions
- Evaluating job descriptions (upcoming)
- Recommendation to hire a full-time staff (not a new position)
- Hired a new (replacement) student advocate

#### **6.3.9 Services Committee**

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- Held a pub night on August 12th



- Discussed Fall event logistics
- Organized tour leads for orientation

### 6.3.10 Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee

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- (none provided)

### 6.3.11 AMS Caucus

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- (none provided)

### 6.3.12 Graduate Council Caucus

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- Due to the large turnover in the VP UAA and Grad Council Caucus, the caucus has lost connections on G+PS academic policy, scholarship and curriculum development working groups. The VP UAA is working to re-establish GSS and graduate student representation on these groups.
- SMART goals have been submitted to G&A however we did not hear back. Briefly, SMART goals are as follows:
  1. Re-establish Graduate Council Caucus representation and presence in G+PS committees
  2. Examine awareness, accessibility and gaps with graduate student awards, bursaries & scholarships and put forward recommendations (carry-over from past Graduate Council Caucus project)
  3. Examine awareness, accessibility and gaps with mental health resources and put forward recommendations

## 6.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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### 6.4.1 Senators:

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- (none provided)

### 6.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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- (none provided)

## 7 NOTICES

### 7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

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**Date:** Thursday, September 16 at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Online on Microsoft Teams platform

### 7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

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- Alejandra Botia was unseated as Departmental Representative from Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education.
- Alejandra Botia was unseated as Representative from Grad Council Caucus.



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- Daniel He was unseated as Departmental Representative from Experimental Medicine.
  - Elizabeth Mahon was unseated as Ordinary Member from Governance and Accountability Committee.
  - Jackson Schumacher was unseated as Chair from AMS Council Caucus.
  - Jackson Schumacher was unseated as Representative from AMS Council Caucus.
  - Kimani Karangu was unseated as Chair from Human Resources Committee.
  - Mostafa Hagar was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
  - Natalie Benoit was unseated as Ordinary Member from Services Committee.
  - Yundi Wang was unseated as Departmental Representative from Neuroscience.

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned **at 8:25 pm.**

**MOVER:** Yundi Wang

**SECONDER:** Leila Matte-Kaci

**RESULT:** Carried