



ATTENDANCE

Present: Aaron Loewen, Andrew , Zang, Axel Hauduc, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Carmen Watson, Claire Thorimbert, Ezra Yu, Faeze Keshavarz, Ginny Pichler, Jenny Lee , Jess Wei, Joern Bannies, Kimani Karangu, Leanna Stackhouse, Leila Matte-Kaci, Linnan Zhou, Mohammadali Shahsavari, Mopelola Akinlaja, Natalie Cappe, Nurul Afcher, Rachel Phillips, Sam Kenston, Sandeep, Gill, Sinna Halvei, Sofie McComb, Taryn Scarff, Temitayo Olarewaju, Tim Branch, William Canero, Yundi Wang, Yuran Zhang, Sarah Park, Maria Mawyin, Devarsh Bhonde, Natalie Cappe, Rodrigo Vallejo, Conny Lin (Speaker).

Regrets:

Absent: Bethany Adair, Davi, Monticelli, Georgia, Yee, Jackson Schumacher, Lisa White, Louise Harding Max Holmes, Mohamed Kamel, Sirajul Mustafa, Teesha Luehr.

Quorum: 16 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at 7:33 pm.

1.2 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: Andrew

SECONDER: Yuran

RESULT: Carried

1.3 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Leila

Seconders: Kimani

Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



President: We are gathered here today to discuss about the society's progress since our last meeting in February. And I would like to acknowledge that UBC, Vancouver Point Grey campus is situated on a traditional ancestral unceded territory of the Musqueam people. And we are thankful to a host nation, the Musqueam people for following us to hold this meeting on their land today. I would also like us 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 everybody who is on this call.

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 SVPRO SERVICES

Responsible: Sasha Wiley-Shaw (sasha.wiley-shaw@ubc.ca 604-822-5254)

Description: SVPRO Services for Graduate Student Leaders, Programs, and Communities

Objective: Provide Council Members with up-to-date information about support and education/outreach services available at SVPRO, including how to access and related to graduate student needs and experiences.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Presentation SVPRO](#)

DISCUSSION

Natalie: I just wanted to thank you so much, Sasha, for making the time to come speak to us at our council meeting tonight. As you mentioned, throughout your presentation, these issues are so important for graduate student leaders to talk about, but for us to know in our unique position in the university with our strange position with having some authority but also having quite a bit of supervision and often intimate positions. So I just really appreciate you sharing all of the resources available to us. And for all of the leaders in this meeting tonight, just be aware of what information we can share with the rest of our graduate students here at UBC. So thank you so much for that impressive presentation. That was extremely informative.

1.2 AMS/GSS HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN FOR 2022-2023 AND ON

Responsible: AMS/GSS Health & Dental Committee

Description: Increase of Health & Dental Plan Fee

- Current: \$ 264.63



- Proposed: \$277 (4.67% increase) or \$277.5 (4.86% increase)

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [AMS/GSS Health & Dental Increase](#)

BIRT the GSS approves of a 4.86% increase to the AMS/GSS Health and Dental Plan Fee beginning the 2022-23 year, from \$264.63 to \$277.50 per student.

Mover: Aaron Loewen **Seconders:** Claire Thorimbert **Result:** Carried

For (17): Sofie McComb, Carmen Watson, Sina Halvei, Yuran Zhang, Axel Hauduc, Andrew Zang, Lee, Jenny, Aaron Loewen, Ezra Yu, Shishir Nurul, Taryn Scarff, Yundi Wang, Sandeep Gill, Claire Thorimbert, Zhou Linnan, Jörn Bannies, Kimani Karangu.

Abstain (6): Leila Matte-Kaci, Tayo Olarewaju, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Sam Kenston, William Canero, Akinlaja Mopelola.

DISCUSSION

Sam: We have some reserved that is what is been used to subsidize the cost of health and dental plan currently. Do you? Are you privileged to how much reserve we have and how long and this be sustained if we don't increase the current fee?

Mary Gan: To address your question right now, and the reserve, we do have around \$10 million. And it may seem like a lot, however, it is unsustainable to keep the fee the same continuously. When we have so many claims going up, we have mental health, the current mental health increase that has allowed us to go from \$1,000 from another \$500. And so there's a lot of benefits that we want to improve on the plan. And of course, the claims itself is going up. So it's moving into a situation where what students are using, the benefits that are using the cost of it is going way above what they're paying for the plan. And so while we can, you know, use the reserve, it's really unsustainable. And we've spoken to, you know, our team here at the MS or executives, we've also spoken to Student Care and our consultants at HUB International, who help consult and help us make decisions on the health financial plan. And the consensus across the board is that we do need to adjust the plan fee to increase it a bit to make it a little bit closer to what it actually costs to facilitate it. So yeah. Hopefully that answers your question.

Sam: Thank you. My last question is just a quick follow up to maybe. So currently, do we know how considering all students pay the same money, and consider looking at the number of students we have at UBC, do we know how much income comes in from just health and dental plan alone? And how much use it is and what is their percentages? For example, if we multiply the number by the number of students, and we have a total number, how much of that percentage is claimed every year?

Mary Gan: I don't have the exact numbers for this year yet since the year hasn't the policy year hasn't ended. It ends in August. So we'll have the numbers Later, however, we have received around \$11.5 million to date for this year's fee collection of the health and dental plan. And so usually around, it's usually around 10 million in terms of spending for in terms of like the total amount of money worth that is claimed by students. That was around the estimated amount for last year. However, this year, it's going to go much higher since this year, we



increase the mental health coverage, like the psychology coverage from \$1,000 to \$1,500. And that was meant to cover be covered by the reserve. And that is one of the highest you just used insurance like areas of the plan. And so guaranteed, we're going to have a lot of claims it's very, very likely to surpass the year before. And so we definitely won't be in a situation where claims are much higher, or like the cost of the plan is much higher than what students are paying.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [February 17, 2022.](#)

Mover: Kimani

Seconded: William

Result: Carried

2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:		Human Resources Committee:	
Code & Policy Committee:	Feb 07, 2022	AMS Caucus:	March 4, 2022
Engagement & Elections Committee:		Graduate Council:	Jan 6, 2022
Executive Committee:	Feb 11, 2022	Health and Dental Plan Caucus:	Jan 12, 2022; Jan 26; 2022; Feb 16, 2022
Executive Oversight Committee	Feb 10, 2022	Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee:	
Governance & Accountability Committee:	Feb 24, 2022	Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee:	Feb 18, 2022
All Chairs Meeting:	Jan 14, 2022	House Finance Committee:	Feb 15, 2022; Feb 24 2022; March 1 2022

Mover: Aaron

Seconded: Yundi

Result: Carried



3 SEATINGS

3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Axel Hauduc (Reseated)	Genome Science & Technology
Faeze Keshavarz	Bioinformatics

Mover: Leila

Second: Kimani

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	1
Graduate Council		Representative	1
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	2
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

Mover: Leila

Second: Sina

Result: Carried

3.3 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors shall endeavor to sit on at least one committee as per Policy 6.2.2.

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

BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
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Academic & External		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	2
Code & Policy		Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	1
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	2
Executive Oversight		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	1
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	2
	Rodrigo Vallejo	Ordinary Member	1
House Finance		Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	1
Human Resources		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	1
Strategic Planning ad-hoc Committee		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	1
Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee		Councillor or Ordinary Member	2
		Governance & Accountability Representative	0

Mover: Leila

Seconded: William

Result: Carried

For (17): Yundi Wang , Aaron Loewen, Taryn Scarff , Jörn Bannies, William Canero , Ezra Yu, Andrew Zang, Leila Matte-Kaci, Sam Kenston, Carmen Watson, Jenny Lee, Natalie Cappe, Claire Thorimbert, Sina Halvei, Sofie McComb, Kimani Karangu, Akinlaja, Mopelola



BIRT the committee vacancies above be advertised on subsequent GSS newsletter

Mover: Sam **Second:** Aaron **Result:** Carried

For (16): Ezra Yu, Sina Halvei, Taryn Scarff, Sofie McComb, Tim Branch, Leila Matte-Kaci, Akinlaja Mopelola, Jenny Lee, Jörn Bannies, Natalie Cappe, Claire Thorimbert, Sam Kenston, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Carmen Watson, Aaron Loewen, William Canero.

BIRT Rodrigo Vallejos shall be seated on Governance & Accountability Committee as an ordinary member.

Mover: Jenny **Second:** Axel **Result:** Carried

For (18): Ezra Yu, Sam Kenston, Andrew Zang, Sofie McComb, Tim Branch, William Canero, Natalie Cappe, Aaron Loewen, Claire Thorimbert, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Taryn Scarff, Sina Halvei, Jenny Lee, Kimani Karangu, Jörn Bannies, Yundi Wang, Akinlaja, Mopelola, Leila Matte-Kaci.

3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Indigenous Engagement Ad Hoc Committee	Xanja Free

MOVER: Jenny Lee **SECONDER:** William **RESULT:** Carried

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 March 2023:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
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Reproductive and Developmental Sciences Student Organization (RDSSO)	Dwayne Tucker
British Columbia Water and Waste Association- UBC Chapter	Karl Zimmerman
Civil Engineering Graduate Student Society	Anurag Krishna
Bioinformatics, Interdisciplinary Oncology Program, Genome Science and Technology (BIGGSA)	Manideep Pachva
Graduate Students in Nursing Association (GSNA)	Zachary Daly
MTLR Joint Students Chapter	Mohammadali Shahsavari

MOVER: VP Students

SECONDER: William

RESULT: Carried

4.2 RECONSTITUTE INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Group Responsible: GSS President

Description: Reconstitute the Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc committee

Time: 15 minutes

WHEREAS the Governance and Accountability Committee has revised the Indigenous Engagement Ad-hoc committee terms of reference, and

WHEREAS the current Indigenous Engagement Ad-hoc committee cycle is coming to an end,

BIRT the GSS Council ratifies the new terms of reference as will be reviewed by G&A and the CPC, and

BIFRT the GSS Council strikes the Indigenous Engagement Ad-hoc committee

BIFRT the following seatings to the Indigenous Engagement Ad-hoc committee be approved:

(Ordinary Members) Pauahi Souza, Raghavi Sundaram, (G&A representative) Jenny Lee, (Chair) Xaanja Free.

MOVER:

SECONDER:

RESULT:

4.3 DISCUSSION ON AGM

William: The reason why I wanted this an agenda is because of not the AGM not meeting quorum itself. But the things that happened at the AGM. It's inappropriate for executive leadership to promote specific candidates, or



for candidates to be promoting themselves during an AGM as the elections policy panel discussed earlier act before this meeting. We can't allow it for a platform for people to campaign especially during an active election. We have to review all campaign materials and then allow specific campaign materials to be put up on specific platforms. With the acknowledgement and acceptance the election policy panel has approved said campaign material. So it was inappropriate for such to be going on. It was we also didn't have the agenda beforehand of what was going to be set at the AGM. So I guess there's just some miscommunication there, because elections policy panel was going to talk about the candidates and how to vote. That being said, it's totally okay for people to explain, like how to vote, that's completely okay. It's just the campaigning stuff can't happen. We're worried about candidates reaching out to us to talk about on even campaign time, the reality of COVID is that when faces are put up on a screen and some faces might be bigger than others, we get pushback because of that. And so we want to make sure that this is a fair and open election.

Kimani: Thank you so much, William for that. And yeah, well noted. And I talked to the chair of the you the E&E wasn't very happy. I know and I am you know, I may have thought it was differently. But I understand we have done a lot of work to make sure that we get the standard that we need to have and with that on behalf of everybody who may have contravened I apologize to the committee and the panel that is carrying this end to the committee so please pass our regrets to them and this one will not be repeated by the next people coming in office.

1 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

4.2 EXECUTIVES

4.2.1 President:

4.2.2 Financial Officer

- Reviewed/effectuated financial transactions at the GSS.

4.2.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

-

4.2.4 VP External Relations

- (None submitted)

4.2.5 VP Students

- (None submitted)



4.3 COMMITTEES

4.3.1 Academic & External Committee

-

4.3.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has been working towards the draft of an elections handbook as per their SMART goals.

4.3.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

-

4.3.4 Executive Committee

4.3.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- EOC has been working on the executive transition process as well as started the final review of executive SMART goal progress.

4.3.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- Working on committee check-ins
- Following up with committees on revising SMART Goals
- Started brainstorming for new G&A SMART Goals

4.3.7 House Finance Committee

- AGM Referendum – Changing auditors from Thompkins Wozny to Loewen Kruse [IN PROGRESS]
- Why?
- - Thompkins Wozny has been associated with GSS since 1994. Industry-standard suggests a refresh.
- - Audit quality and improving internal controls necessary for GSS
- Referendum – Bring consistency in the hourly rate for all GSS executives [COMPLETED]
- Why?
- - In the previous referendum, executive honoraria were increased by \$6000 for each executive.
- - The hours' commitment is different across executives (64hrs/month for President and 52hrs/month for VPs and FO)
- - Amount to be increases is: $(\$28.49 - \$27.20)/hr = \$1.29/hr * 64hrs/month * 12 months = \990.72 increase in the annual remuneration
- - Will be implemented for the GSS President taking office in 2022-23 term and onwards because one bonus payment is scheduled for the current President and food vouchers for attending meetings.
- Adding more funds to current mutual fund portfolios [COMPLETED]
- Why?



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- - The inflation rate is over 4%, and the GIC rate is below 1%. Losing significant value of money.
 - - A total amount of \$503,000 (as of Feb 25, 2022) currently invested in GICs, which is due for maturity in March 2022, be split equally and invested in the two mutual fund portfolios owned by GSS (3–5-year portfolio and 5+ year portfolio).
 - - The amount of \$150,000 from the main account balance of GSS (\$470,779 as of Feb 25, 2022) be invested in fixed-term GICs of the one-year term.
 - - Changing accounting platform from ACCPAC to QuickBooks Online [IN PROGRESS]
 - Why?
 - - ACCPAC currently used is over 12 years old. It lacks modern features and is highly manual
 - - QuickBooks online automates many processes and provides accessible information for individuals with a 'non-finance' background.
 - Improving internal payroll process [YET TO START]
 - Why?
 - - The audit report highlighted a lack of best practices wherein it's difficult to ensure compliance
 - - Manual process and constant back and forth required.
 - - Creating financial incentives for GSS Executives related to performance [YET TO START]
 - - Create Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for GSS executives based on timecards, campaign promises, SMART goals, EOC rating. Final metrics to be decided in association with EOC.
 - Utilizing additional revenue generated from mutual funds [YET TO START]
 - - The investment of \$500,000 in mutual funds is expected to generate 10% annual revenue. The HF committee will discuss strategies for their appropriate utilization.

4.3.8 Human Resources

-

4.3.9 Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee

- Elected Xaanja Free as Chair
- Held first meeting
- Drafted letter to send out to Indigenous communities to establish who we are and our goals, and to invite collaboration
- Orientation held for Chair to introduce GSS procedures/policies and "how to chair"

4.3.10 AMS Caucus

- We appointed Nasim to be the deputy of the GSS AMS Caucus.

4.3.11 Graduate Council Caucus



4.4 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

4.4.1 Senators:

- Example update

4.4.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

- (None submitted)

6.4 GSS STAFF

- The GSS Staff has decided to create a Staff Newsletter! This monthly newsletter will be available as an additional internal communication tool for our execs, full-time and part-time staff moving forward.
- We would like to have our team stay informed and be involved with the Society's operations, celebrate the Society's and staff members' achievements and contributions, and collect feedback and suggestions about how we can run a better Society together. If you would like to add an item to the newsletter, please share your content with Eva, our office assistant, at officeassitant@gss.ubc.ca.
- You can find the newsletter [here](#).
- Feel free to pick-up a Covid-19 rapid test at the GSS Lobby during our office hours (9:00 am-5:00pm M-F)

5 NOTICES

5.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: April, 21 2022 at 5:30 pm

Location: Online through Microsoft Teams

5.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- William Yip was unseated as Ordinary Member of the Governance & Accountability Committee.
- Aditi Nagaraj was unseated as Departmental Representative for Bioinformatics.
- Sachi Toshniwal was unseated as Ordinary Member of the Governance & Accountability Committee.

6 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Mover: Sina

Second: Aaron

Result: Carried