



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Mopelola Akinjala, Andrew Zang, Axel Hauduc, Bethany Adair, Aaron Loewen Claire Thorimbert, Ruth Irene, Ezra Yu, Jenny Lee, Devarsh Bhonde, Ismail Muftau, Jorden Henry, Faeze Kehsa, Leanna Stackhouse, Marco Sotres, Nicholas Phin, Onyeka Odenigbo, Sabbir Hossain, Sam Kenston, Mo Shahsavari, Shishir Nurul, Speaker (Conny Lin, Tania Arora, Taryn Scarff, Teesha Luehr, Tim BRanch, Tobi Olowoyo, Violeta Fabiani, Vivian Tian, Jess Wei, Zhou Linnan.

**Regrets:**

**Absent:**

**Quorum:** 16 Councillors

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

### 1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at 5:33 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:** Mopelola

**SECONDER:** Claire

**RESULT:** Carried

### 1.3 AGENDA ADOPTION

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

**Mover:** Aaron

**Seconders:** Violeta

**Result:** Carried

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**President:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. This place has been a place of learning



and a station of knowledge over the years and we are grateful to be gathered here to advocate to meet and to coordinate the efforts of graduate students of Vancouver and beyond. Enjoy your meeting everybody. Thank you Madam Speaker.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

## 1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 1.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

- [May 19, 2022](#)

**Mover:** Claire

**Seconders:** Andrew

**Result:** Carried

### 1.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>	April 4, 2022; May 5, 2022.	<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	
<b>Code &amp; Policy Committee:</b>	May 11, 2022	<b>AMS Caucus:</b>	May 13, 2022.
<b>Engagement &amp; Elections Committee:</b>	June 3, 2022.	<b>Graduate Council:</b>	
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	May 9, 2022.	<b>Health and Dental Plan Caucus:</b>	
<b>Executive Oversight Committee:</b>	May 9, 2022.	<b>All-Chairs:</b>	May 20, 2022
<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	May 12, 2022.	<b>Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee:</b>	
		<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	May 16, 2022; May 31, 2022

**Mover:** Aaron

**Seconders:** Marco

**Result:** Carried



## 2 SEATINGS

### 2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

**BIRT** the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Cara James	Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science
Aaron Loewen (reseated)	Cell & Developmental Biology
Teesha Luehr (reseated)	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Mover:** Faeze

**Second:** Aaron

**Result:** Carried

### 2.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

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

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

**BIRT** the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	2

**Mover:** Devarsh

**Second:** Sam

**Result:** Carried

#### Discussion

**Sam:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. fellow counselors and community teachers, I would like to encourage people to nominate themselves to be representative on the Faculty of Arts. We are trying to increase the visibility of GSS in the various departments of UBC and this is a good start considering GSS has nomination to nominate two people to sit on the Faculty of Arts Council. So please if you are interested, feel free to nominate yourself. Have you know somebody who will be interested or is capable of speaking on behalf of students and representing us in the faculty country nominate the person.

### 2.3 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
Academic & External	Bethany Adair	Councillor	2
	Yundi Wang	Ordinary Member	1
Code & Policy	Linnan Zhou	Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	1
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	4
Executive Oversight		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
Governance & Accountability	Marco Sotres	Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	2
House Finance		Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	0
Human Resources		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	0
Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee		Councillor or Ordinary Member	2
		Governance & Accountability Representative	0

**Mover:** Faeze

**Seconded:** Linnan

**Result:** Carried

## 3 MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 3.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

**WHEREAS** the following organizations have submitted a petition for recognition as an Affiliate Organization,

**BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in June 2023:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
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Disabled Graduate Student Association	Haley Branch
Library & Archival Studies Student Association (LASSA)	Laura Weisgarber
Mechanical Engineering Graduate Association (MEGA)	Raunak Basak

**MOVER:** VP Students

**SECONDER:** Aaron

**RESULT:** Carried

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## 4.2 BYLAW REVISION – PRESIDENT HONOURARIUM

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, House-Finance Committee, Executive Oversight Committee

**Description:** A motion to include an item in the next referendum/AGM regarding president remuneration.

**Proposed Objective:** To bring a motion to the next GSS referendum and/or AGM

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Bylaw Revision Form - President Honourarium.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the increase in the honorarium amount of \$6000 annually has highlighted the discrepancy in the \$/hr rate for the GSS President and the other four GSS Executives due to the varied time commitment requirements (64hrs/month for President and 52hrs/month for VPs and FO),

**WHEREAS** the House Finance Committee, Code and Policy Committee, and Executive Oversight Committee conducted rigorous review of the initial proposal to increase the executives' honorarium by \$6000 wherein the discrepancy in the \$/hr rate between the President and other GSS executives did not get noticed,

**WHEREAS** a Bylaw change must be approved by Council to send to an Annual General Meeting or referendum,

**BIRT** the following item be included in the next referendum and/or Annual General Meeting of the GSS, whichever comes first:

**BYLAW AMENDMENT:** President Honourarium

**EXPLANATION:** There is a discrepancy in the hourly rate for President vs VPs (\$27.20 vs \$28.49) based on the readjusted honoraria. The HF Committee's remuneration increase discussions we primarily focused on the annual total amount that could be channeled for pay increase. The amount was \$30,000 annual for 5 executives. This amount was equally divided (i.e., \$6000 each) among the 5 executives on their existing salary at that point (\$14,888.88 and \$11,777.77). We did not consider \$/hr rate during the process as honoraria is 'ex



gratia' payment. In other words, the payment (and the amount) is considered voluntary because the party making the payment is not obligated to compensate the individual. The changes reflected in this item are to adjust the President's honouraria appropriately.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** [Bylaw Revision Form - President Honourarium.pdf](#)

## MOTION:

**WHEREAS** the increase in the honorarium amount of \$6000 annually has highlighted the discrepancy in the \$/hr rate for the GSS President and the other four GSS Executives due to the varied time commitment requirements (64hrs/month for President and 52hrs/month for VPs and FO),

**WHEREAS** the House Finance Committee, Code and Policy Committee, and Executive Oversight Committee conducted rigorous review of the initial proposal to increase the executives' honorarium by \$6000 wherein the discrepancy in the \$/hr rate between the President and other GSS executives did not get noticed,

**BIRT** the HF Committee approves an increase in the annual remuneration for the GSS President by an amount of \$990.72 making the honorarium for the GSS President \$21,879.60 (\$20,888.88 + \$990.72) and hence making the \$/hr rate across all GSS Executives consistent at \$28.49/hr,

**BIFRT** the change in the remuneration rate for the GSS President is to be implemented following the referendum to revise the rates in the Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 2022. This remuneration increase of \$990.72 will be implemented for the GSS President taking office in 2022-23 term and onwards,

**BIFRT** the changes listed in "Bylaw Revision Form - President Honourarium.pdf" be made to the Bylaws and Policy Manual.

**MOVER:** Tim

**SECONDER:** Devarsh

**RESULT:** Carried

## 4.3 BYLAW REVISION – BYLAW 8.2.7

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** A motion to include an item in the next referendum/AGM regarding Bylaw 8.2.7.

**Proposed Objective:** To bring a motion to the next GSS referendum and/or AGM.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Bylaw Revision Form - Bylaw 8.2.7.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** Council and the GSS members have previously approved changes regarding Executive Transition,



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**WHEREAS** Bylaw 8.2.7 was not updated simultaneously and requires updating to properly align with the most recent Bylaw and Policy changes as well as current practices,

**BIRT** the following item be included in the next referendum and/or Annual General Meeting of the GSS, whichever comes first:

**BYLAW AMENDMENT:** Bylaw 8.2.7 Update

**EXPLANATION:** The Code & Policy Committee was notified of a conflict in the Bylaws, where Bylaw 8.2.7 was not appropriately updated when other Bylaws regarding Executive Transition were changed. Thus, the current Bylaw 8.2.7 is in conflict with the current practice and requires modification.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** [Bylaw Revision Form - Bylaw 8.2.7.pdf](#)

**MOTION:**

**WHEREAS** the current Bylaw 8.2.7 conflicts with Bylaw 8.6.2 and Policy 4.3.2.c,

**WHEREAS** Bylaw 8.6.2 and Policy 4.3.2.c were updated recently and reflect current practices,

**BIRT** the changes listed in "Bylaw Revision Form - Bylaw 8.2.7.pdf" be made to the Bylaws and Policy Manual.

**MOVER:** Aaron

**SECONDER:** Devarsh

**RESULT:** Carried

## DISCUSSION

**Aaron:** for sure I can take a minute of everyone's time. Since it seems like we're doing quite well on that right now. So this is a really simple change. Previously we adjusted we adjusted executive transition so that around the same time that we had of incoming executives start to take office, we will have we typically would have our outgoing executives shadow these incoming executives for a period of time. And this overlap initially was stated to be two weeks. However, since our last updates to the to the executive transition, this has been changed to a period of one month. And the other policies listed in the motion do also indicate a one month period, however, bylaw eight point 2.7 still had a two weeks listed. So this change is only to update this bylaw to align with the one month period of where the outgoing executives will be available to these incoming executives for advice and guidance.

## 4.4 HONORARY MEMBERS NOMINATIONS

**WHEREAS** the following members have contributed significantly to the Graduate Student Society in the course of their terms, and



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**WHEREAS** they satisfy the conditions stated in Bylaw 3.2.1,

**BIRT** the following members be conferred honorary membership in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.1:

Tayo Olarewaju

**BIFRT** the GSS Council directs the Code and Policy Committee to update the list of Honorary Members in the Policy Manual.

**MOVER:** HF Committee

**SECONDER:**

**RESULT:** Carried

## Discussion

**Devarsh:** I just like to give some background. So Tayo is our current finance officer and he has been in the position for the past two years. And he has been involved with the House Finance Committee for almost three years now. Over the time of his involvement with GSS. He has spearheaded some of the major projects that we undertook in the finance committee, such as making the investment in the mutual funds, getting the executive honorary year in cleaved as well as this recent bylaw amendment that we just passed of matching the levy between all the executives or having a consistency in the pay for all the executives. So we feel that the contributions by Tayo towards the society have been quite significant and he should be included as a part as an honorary member is actually so sadly, he is not here his on his leave. So yeah, he's not better than the council meeting today. But we would still I would strongly encourage everyone to vote for the motion.

## 4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

## 5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

## 5.1 EXECUTIVES

### 5.1.1 President:

- The Execs had our first retreat. We discussed various topics including the goals for the year 2022/23.
- Advocating for PhD 4YF to 5YF
- Housing affordability and rent subsidy
- Guarantee funding for master's Students
- Childcare benefits or subsidy for Students with families
- Collaborative, comprehensive and regular events for Grad students
- Other topics discussed that require action include





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- How to improve/enhance visibility of the GSS- some suggestions include:
  - Modifying the newsletter
  - Regular update of the website with upcoming events
  - Posting information relevant to Grad students on GSS social media channels
  - Meeting with all WL students to get to know the Execs and vice versa
  - Meeting with FT/PT staff
  - Executives also had a meeting with President Ono, VPS Curry and Dean Porter. Items discussed include
  - Return to campus plan for the fall – mask mandates will be lifted
  - All classes will be in-person with limited hybrid versions

#### President's Meetings

- I had a meeting with UBC Food Security and wellbeing committee. We discussed various ways we can deepen our relationship and collaborate to provide food security for Grad students
- I had a meeting with the GM of GSS. We discussed the Graduate Life Centre (GLC) project and the current status of the renovation
- I had a meeting with AMS President where we discussed ways AMS can support the GSS and Grad student community as well as the GLC.
- I had meeting with the GSS Reps to the AMS Council (AMS Caucus), E&E Committee chair, HR chair and some WL students to discuss updates and give them feedback on their reports

#### 5.1.2 Financial Officer

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#### 5.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

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- June 2, 2022 meeting with V.P. Student, Dr. Ainsley Carry
- Highpoints
  - Return to campus decision
  - Students experience, etc.
- June 3, 2022, attended the Executive Committee meeting during the executive retreat.
- June 6, 2022, attended the Campus Vision 2050 meeting, regarding UBC housing
- June 7, 2022, attended the ADA-ADS Meeting
- Highpoints
  - International students' enrolment and the issue of MELT
  - Block funding, for Covid 19
- June 7, 2022, attended the Learning Spaces Advisory Committee (LSAC)
- Highpoints



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- Summer 2023 project proposals prioritization
    - Planning to upgrade/ refurbish some study/ learning spaces
    - Voted for 3 priority projects
  - June 9, 2022, Monthly GSS/ UBC VP Students meeting
  - Highpoints
    - Shared our views on the UBC mask mandate
    - Discussed return to campus by UBC administration, staff and students
    - Discussion on the Acadia food funding
    - Tuition increment update
    - Grant for GSFA fund
    - We were informed about the 54 recommendations on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
    - Health and wellness for students, etc.
  - June 10, 2022, attended the Academic Integrity Advisory Committee meeting
  - Highpoints
    - Deliberated on the terms of reference for the committee
    - Academic integrity hub and the new academic integrity website
  - June 10, 2022, attended the All-Chairs' Committee meeting
  - June 14, 2022, attended the GSS Executive Committee meeting
  - June 14, 2022, attended the GSS/ G+PS and Ombud office meeting
  - Highpoints
    - Issues of confidentiality of students – need to know basis
  - June 14, 2022, attended the Graduate Council Caucus meeting
  - Highpoints
    - Update on the previous Grad Council Caucus Smart Goals
    - Decided on finetuning the Grad Council Caucus Smart Goals
    - Finalizing the SSS Survey
    - Decided to prepare a compendium of wellness resources for graduate students
    - Prepare a list of all GSA, including both affiliated with GSS and others.

## 5.1.4 VP External Relations

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- Childcare
  - Meeting with Child Care Services at UBC regarding student concerns
- Working together with Policy assistant towards the generation of a document that analyzes graduate program completion vs childcare availability and affordability
- Meetings with some experts in the topic to have a broad understanding of the issue
- Vision 2050 meeting and Charette events
- Attended a campus tour to better understand the campus plan of vision 2050



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- Attended the 3-day charette event to develop the first steps of the 2050 campus plan. Here I advocated for graduate student needs such as housing availability and affordability, childcare, and generation of spaces that would better serve students and promote research.
  - Housing 10-year vision Committee
  - Attended first committee meeting with Policy assistant and brought up issues such as maintenance and plague control in buildings.
  - Housing 10-year vision Committee
  - Attended first committee meeting with Policy assistant and brought up issues such as maintenance and plague control in buildings.
  - Meeting with Minister of Education
  - Discussed more funding options for graduate students
  - Discussed issues related to childcare availability and affordability
  - Mental health, wellbeing options available for students
  - PR path distinction for graduate students
  - Investment in research
  - Presentation Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
  - Advocated for making graduate student grants permanent and expand the eligibility criteria
  - Meeting with Ainsley
  - Discussed Students Wellbeing and Mental Health Support avenues
  - Discussed Funding opportunities for emergency response
  - Attended Musqueam naming ceremony that took place at UBC's newest residence tə ʃxʷhələləm's tə kʷaʔkʷəʔaʔt
  - Attended graduation ceremonies as part of the Chancellor's procession

## 5.1.5 VP Students

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- Softball league in progress
- Language and dance classes to begin this month/early next month
- Preparation for September orientation
- Upcoming games night
- Working on getting financial literacy workshop



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## 5.2 COMMITTEES

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### 5.2.1 Academic & External Committee

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- AcEx has been working on creating a roadmap document of the work done by the VPUAA and VPEx offices over the past 2 years, in order to bring current members up to speed and give us a foundation for beginning to discuss SMART goals with the new VPs.

### 5.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

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- CPC has been reviewing our SMART goals and submitting midterm updates to G&A, drafting election policy changes, and reviewing various proposed Policy and Bylaw changes.

### 5.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

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- EE Committee is currently working on hosting an event with UBC Farms.
- This last meeting was the first since the past chair was unseated.
- The committee is actively looking into ways to engage graduate students.

### 5.2.4 Executive Committee

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### 5.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

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- Since April's Council Meeting EOC has added three new members to our committee. We have met in early March to discuss reaching out to executives on their SMART goals, which we will review at our next meeting.

### 5.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

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- Sent requests to committees/caucuses for SMART goals mid-term updates, presentation planned for July Council
- Drafted and sent G&A SMART Goals to Exec committee; reviewed feedback and updated accordingly
- Started planning for the biennial Departmental Representatives calculation
- Continued communication with new chairs
- Our semi-annual committee check-ins are upcoming in July

### 5.2.7 House Finance Committee

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- Reviewed accounting services provided to GSS and deliberated available options
- Finalized process for retroactive payment for transition honoraria for incoming executives
- Outlined timelines and penalties for improving the internal payroll process



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## 5.2.8 Human Resources

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## 5.2.9 Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee

## 5.2.10 AMS Caucus

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- Our caucus clarified the purpose of the caucus with the President, including advocating for our benefits (e.g., health insurance, room, financial aids, etc. )  
Our caucus will appoint a committee deputy in the coming meeting.  
Our caucus is working on revising SMART goals and reviewing the midterm progress.

## 5.2.11 Graduate Council Caucus

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## 5.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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### 5.3.1 Senators:

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### 5.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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## 6 NOTICES

### 6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

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**Date:** July 21 2022 at 5:30 pm

**Location:** MS Teams

### 6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

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- Sabbir Hossain was unseated as Councillor from the Code & Policy Committee.
- Sinna Halvei was unseated as Councillor from the Executive Oversight Committee.
- Yundi Wang was unseated as Departmental Representative for Neuroscience.
- Yundi Wang was unseated as Councillor from the Academic & External Committee.



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- William Canero was unseated as Departmental Representative for Community & Regional Planning
  - William Canero was unseated as Councillor from the Engagement & Elections Committee
  - Louise Harding was unseated as Departmental Representative for the School of Population & Public Health
  - Sandeep Gill was unseated as Departmental Representative for the School of Population & Public Health

## 7 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:10 pm.

**Mover:** Linnan

**Second:** Jenny

**Result:** Carried