



ATTENDANCE

Present: Abhishnek, Akinjala Mopelola, Amarildo Ceka, Bethany Adair, Cara James, Aaron Loewen, Claire Thorimbert, Nick Phin, Ezra Yu, Jenny Lee, Devarsh Bhonde, Ismail Muftau, Faeze K, Marco Sotres, Maryke Peter, Muxi Guo, Ogonyeka, Maria Mawyin, Sabbir Hussein, Sam Kenston, Shishir Nurul, Conny Lin (Speaker), Tania Arora, Taryn Scarff, Tayo Olarewaju, Teesha Luehr, Tobi Olowoyo, Varun, Violeta Fabiani, Vivian Tian, Wei Jess, Yi Luo, Linnan Zhou.

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 5:34 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: Aaron

SECONDER: Violeta

RESULT: Carried

1.3 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Sam

Seconded: Aaron

Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: I'd like to acknowledge that we gathered on the traditional unseeded and ancestral territory of the Musqueam people. And many people are joining us from various traditional and ancestral lands. This place has



been a place of learning for the Musqueam people and for UBC for several years and we are blessed and grateful to be here. I wish everybody a successful council meeting and enjoy.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [June 16, 2022](#)

Mover: Violeta

Second: Sabbir

Result: Carried

1.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:		Human Resources Committee:	
Code & Policy Committee:	May 11, 2022; June 3 2022.	AMS Caucus:	
Engagement & Elections Committee:	June 17, 2022; June 28, 2022; July 15, 2022.	Graduate Council:	
Executive Committee:	June 14, 2022.	Health and Dental Plan Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee		All-Chairs:	June 10, 2022.
Governance & Accountability Committee:	June 2, 2022; June 6, 2022; June 23, 2022.	Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee:	
		House Finance Committee:	June 15, 2022; June 28, 2022.

Mover: Sam

Second: Aaron

Result: Carried



2 SEATINGS

2.1 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
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	2
Graduate Council Caucus	Violeta Fabiani	Representative	1

Mover:

Second:

Result:

DISCUSSION

Ismael: The Graduate Council Caucus represent the GSS are the Council of the faculty and graduate postdoctoral studies that GPS. So the Graduate Council caucus is a very important, very important body, you know, which represent the interests of graduate students or the council, you will have the opportunity to meet with important personalities that at UBC are to decide the affairs of graduate education and graduate students, essentially, the graduated Council or the Graduate Council of the GPS, there are three important committees, of which our members also have the right to, to join to participate in the activities of these committees. The committees are the graduate curriculum committee, this is the committee in charge of deciding the program of all the graduate education in UBC and the members you know, include all the faculties important or personal thing the faculties would decide, you know, what program you know, take place in the in the various faculties. We also have the academic policy committee, you know, the this committee advises the day on program policy, you know, policy changes or recommendation. And then we also have the scholarship committee, which is also a very, very important committee in a week decides, we'll get what what awards or scholarship is given to what percent and how searches decided. So, I would like to encourage all of us to consider joining on the mini train anyone whom you may know, to join this committee, currently we are we have two vacancies, and then we will

2.2 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	Cara James	Councillor	2



		Ordinary Member	1
Code & Policy		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	1
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	4
Executive Oversight		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	2
House Finance		Councillor	4
	Nimish Khandelwal Varun Shah	Ordinary Member	2
Human Resources		Councillor	3
	Tej Shah Muxi Guo	Ordinary Member	3
Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee		Councillor or Ordinary Member	2
		Governance & Accountability Representative	0

Mover: Cara

Seconded: Aaron

Result: Carried

3 MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 FINANCIAL OFFICER APPOINTMENT

Responsible: Sam Kenston, GSS President; Governance and Accountability Committee

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

Objective: Hold election and appoint the Financial Officer

Relevant Materials: [Candidates' cover letters](#)



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

WHEREAS the position of Financial Officer has been advertised, and

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

BIRT GSS Council elects Abhishek Somanagoudar to the position of Financial Officer, to take office on August 31st.

Mover: Sabbir

Seconded: Aaron

Result: Carried

Candidates: Amarildo Ceka, Ye Liou, Maryke Peter and Abhishek Somanagoudar

Majority in favour: Abhishek Somanagoudar

DISCUSSION

Sam: Alright, thank you very much Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the candidates to please turn on the cameras. As a matter of policy, we don't forbid people from turning on their cameras is because the internet gets slow. That's why people do not turn on their camera. It's not because it's illegal. So but on this note I will like the candidates to turn on their camera so we can see them.

Abhishek: I would like to thank Madam Speaker, Mr. President and all the VP executive members and all the council members present today for giving me the opportunity to speak for GSS financial position. My name is, as you all know, it's Abhishek. I'm a first year master's by research student with a Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. So I would like to give you all a brief background introduction about my experience. I co founded in drone Aerosystems, drone data capture and processing company in India six years ago, very different from 0 and helped to reach a valuation of quarter million dollars with very low to nil debt. I have handled major roles in the form including financial activities, strategic planning, and IT implementation. As a UBC graduate student, my involvement with GSS started from board games night in March, where I got to know about GSS. This interaction turned into an opportunity to work and get involved with GSS activities and become a general member of two committees. Currently, I'm part of House Finance Committee involved in the discussion of all the financial activities of GSS. I'm also the electoral and student engagement officer at GSS. This has given me a broader perspective of GSS to get involved with and contribute to the society. If given the opportunity as a new GSS Financial Officer, I'm obliged to bring in the following changes. With my experience in creating effective budgets and number crunching for my startup, I could effectively create the promising 2024 budget. In accordance with the house finance committee's SMART goals. I am skilled enough to help transition the current tedious financial platform to a new software based platform, helping GSS employees and executives transform and adapt to 21st century software's in financial sector and governance. I would like to take the responsibility in assisting to grow GSS funds, reducing the depths and giving back to the graduate students, which is the main motto of GSS by bringing in new collaborations with UBC and other venture funds. I want to bring in minor changes in the financial administration during my tenure, which would resonate over the period of time for



betterment of GSS. The above are few highlights but are not limited to my capacity and duties. So with this, I would like to request all the council members and executives to vote for me for this question. Thank you.

Amarildo: I'm a first year PhD student at speed SPPH. I graduated with a bachelor's in biochemistry and I possess a master's in business administration. I also have a certificate of executive executive leadership from Cornell University in an executive executive education certificate from Harvard University. In my undergraduate studies, I was elected to Utica College Student Senate president in this capacity as served as the chief executive officer for the Senate and the representative of more than 2500 student body while managing a budget more than \$450,000 and need to use a new financial monitoring system. Furthermore, I supervise more than 70 clubs and organization interviewing Council and committees. Right after my undergraduate graduation I was offered a position at the Mohawk Valley Health System where I had opportunity to analyze patient experience and identify numerous opportunities where system could be improved, could be improved, leading to hospital saving more than \$400,000 A pivotal experience which honed my problem my problem solving skills was my experience worth working as an adviser to the Minister of Health and Social Protection Albania in this capacity I oversaw an implementation of the Process Improvement Project regarding expenditures of the budget for the 2020 year and the financial strategic plan for 2121 25. Having an MBA and working consistently with project related finance I've helped me to perform complex statements voice on top of irregular budgets and financial statements, since being a student senate president to advisor of the Minister of Health has informed me two main qualities which are the most needed for the financial position, Officer position, accountability and teamwork. I'm Plan of bringing these two qualities and working with every single one of you currently, I'm a part of oversight committee for the GSS. I look forward to hear for you and respond to any questions you might have. Thank you.

Maryke: Thank you very much for providing me with this opportunity to present my platform and proposal to EU Council members. My platform is to I propose to follow the duties set out in Bylaw 8.56 of the Graduate Student studies. Society bylaws, which are to report to council on a monthly basis to prepare a present and can prepare and present a complete budget and work with the House Finance Committee, and also to cause an audit to happen each fiscal year. And I propose to be responsible for the matters, the financial matters of the staff and be responsible of the activities of the House Finance Committee, as well as I ensure to implement bylaws 3.9, which deal with the fees and bylaw 11, which deals with the finances. I just would like to give you a little bit of background about myself. I currently work in the area of K to 12 education in the legal legal department, and I am a Certified Paralegal. I work closely with the finance department in preparing certain budgets, including the budget for the legislative committee for the school trustees. And I propose to use my experience and knowledge that I've gained in working in K to 12 education to help the society innovate and also follow the bylaws that we have currently in place and any bylaws that we'd like to change and that the that I whatever I am directed to do, by council as well as the members and again, I like to thank you for the opportunity.

Ye: I'm currently second year shoulders literature major masters soon to be third year. I'm also the representative of children's literature Association at GSS as well so I'm very grateful that yes, it provides a Oh funds for clubs and it really appreciate all your works here at GSS because our club this year got the geophones and were able to successfully hold the knife children's literature. This is also inspires me to apply for this position to also contribute to the UBC graduates community. I'm currently a Graduate Academic assistant and I



school School of Information and UBC and then charge of medical conference that's master for arts and children's literature. We hold a conference every year. I've been chairing this conference for two consecutive years. That word involve a lot of budgeting reporting fundraising from scratch and lots of communication with sponsors, including UBC departments and various organizations including GSS. I'm very familiar with rain board person and processes with each UBC institution like AMS global launch UBC departments GSS and children's letters, summer school etc. I'm also very good drafting applications and reports. Of course, like so far I've only been experiencing from the side of applicants but I think with two years experience being the treasurer and also the Chair of the Conference. I got enough experience doing funds related transfers and job responsibilities. I'm also pretty good at doing sponsor acknowledgement. You can check out our website and I also have templates for budgeting reporting grant and carry on Um, I can email them for reference if you need it. I'm also a St. John's College here UBC community volunteer, I'm pretty active organizing activities and making budgets and event descriptions. I think those might be my camp might come handy for for the reporting processes. And for me, I think managing funds and generally dealing with money requires a lot of patience and caution. The numbers sometimes can be daunting and gotta work. as treasurer is a we got to keep it accurate. And also that requires lots of patience and communicating with relevant organizations and personnels. Because phone transfers can take time. And as a person who have been dealing with club financial on finances for two years, I always double even triple check with relevant personnel to make sure the numbers.

Speaker: sorry, to cut you off. Three minutes is up. Thank you. And yeah, I'm wrapping up. Thank you. Thank you. Okay, question period, please type in a chat speak.

Violeta: So I want to just ask you how I really appreciate it how Abishek gave a very kind of really action plan. So I was I know that time is limited. So I just wanted to have those opportunity to ask you what your specific, like actions are, that you're willing to do at GSS? As finance. Thank you.

Amarildo: So for, for the goals to do in in regards to the financial financial officer. First of all, looking at the SMART goals of the current financial officer has laid out the first the first change that probably we I would implement this focus on the digitalization of the expenditures. And one way to do that is using programs that are out there, probably Salesforce that will be shared with all the team members. And that that is one of the implementations that I plan on doing.

Maryke: Thank you, Madame Speaker. Um, one thing that I could say that a deliverable that I would like to be is one, making realistic and achievable goals that are possible within my term. Like I like the idea of dreaming big, but I also want to be able to do things that are attainable, and that will actually benefit the society it with things that I can do within my terms. So one thing that I know, I am a member of the executive Oversight Committee, and I'm aware that one of the outgoing things are one of the problems that wanted to be outgoing. Seeing, or the outgoing financial officer mentioned is having an issue with having to do numerous transactions. So I'd like to do create a way to make that minimal. And so that's like a deliverable is to work on that project is to rectify that situation. Thank you.

Ye: Hi, hello, thank you for the question. Um, as a treasurer, I think I have, like, for my, for my experience, as treasurer, I will do my turn. If possible, I like to simplify the forms and processes for reimbursement or transfer or any kind of fun transfer. And also, I know how sometimes it's hard to find the right person to communicate with a certain issue. So I like to make each members on the team with a specific job responsibilities. So when it



comes to whatever issues been issues, people just can't go to the right person and just like settle things down. I won't shop.

Abhishek: So just like to add in like, I would like to bring in good collaboration with the UPC and other venture funds with the GSS. So that we could enhance the funds of GSS and also give back to the graduate students. It's just the highlight of those sticks.

Ismail: Thank you, Madam Speaker. First and foremost, I would like to commend all of you for throw your hat in the ring for wanting to serve the society in the position of the financial officer. Oh, my question will be directed to the three of you, I think I was able to get that from the submission of Abhishek. As we all know, the position of the financial officer is a unique bond. So I would like you to reflect a loss if you have held any similar position in the past, you know, in the role of the financial officer in any organization. Thank you.

Maryke: thank you, Madame Speaker. Marika, thank you very much. Thank you very much for your question. My experience is I'm currently a paralegal in I work in the area of K 12 education with the provincial government. And so in my role, I am not a financial officer, but I work very closely with the financial officer at our in that area. And then as well as I'm responsible for the budget of the legislative committee in K to 12. Education. That's my experience. Thank you.

Ye: Mostly, I've been working with student union so far. I am a treasurer for children's literature Association, MS and H NGSS. I've been serving as treasurer for two consecutive terms, two years. I'm also a Graduate Academic assistant High School in charge of chairing the macro conference. So that involves a lot of budgeting and reporting.

Abhishek: So as previously mentioned, I had my startup. So I have handled most of the financial activities, including the bookkeeping, the taxation and the all other financial related activities.

Amarildo: Yes. So first of all, I do have an MD A. So I am trained to focus on the business side to perform financial analyses audits for different companies. On the other side, I've worked as a student senate president, which I've also, I've worked closely with a financial officer to oversee all of the budgeting for the entire organizations of the Senate. I have funded in a non non governmental organization back in Albania, which focused on the diaspora related issues. And we've had to raise close to a million dollars to do our programs, both in Albania and overseas with the larger Albanian diaspora. And lastly, I do have a business on the side in which I have to deal with bookkeeping in and out, you know, all the finances of my own business. Thank you.

Devarsh: Madam Speaker. And thank you to all the other candidates for participating for the finance officer position. So I'm part of the House Finance Committee. So you know, something that Ismail touched upon are more on the operation end of things. Something to give some background on is that the revenue that GSS receives is primarily from our membership fees are basically the tuition fee that we pay. And the second is our rental properties like the Koerners pub of that here called net house and few other properties. So I just wanted to hear some insights from your end, like, Are there any alternate sources of revenues that come to your mind for a nonprofit organization like a student organization like GSS, that we can probably explore, so that we can have more diversified sources of revenue in the future? I'd just like to hear input from everyone. If you have any ideas, we would be glad to know.



Ye: I think for student run organizations, UBC departments and also UBC, already available funds are the easiest to apply. For example, our conference also like fully graduate student run conference, we're playing funds from AMS Walter gauge funds, just try to browse through all the available funds, and make an application as early as possible and try to apply for each of them. And as a very small conference, and as a student union, that's only like five members, where you raise up to 10k. So that's available UVC funds. And also depending on the topic of the event, you can also try to reach out to external organizations that could share similar passion or that runs business in the end somehow relevant similar areas. And it could be hard. Thank you.

Amarildo: Alright, so if looking to expand on the pool of money that the GSS already has, I'm looking at four main alternatives, first of all, is just hosting additional conferences so on which obviously there'll be income that will be as part of revenue applying for external funds with organization or local on a national level there are multiple suit organizations like the GSS who will have projects locally and nationally, looking at possibly expanding as some sort of concerts where we would obviously bring look at that as a site of revenue and in all of these alternatives, you are looking for just PR alternative just promoting certain businesses that would actually pay for their for PR.

Maryke: I just wanted to expand on the idea of conferences as a one way. And I think to add on to the conferences idea. I think one way to increase the revenue would be to do some virtual ones as well, to kind of continue with that, because I think it can be more cost effective. And then also, you can also probably get more participants as well. So thinking of looking at hybrid and virtual options for cost. And then another way that you another revenue stream that you can get from that is doing sponsorships. So like one thing is, if you have it in person, if you have, let's say, a lunch portion, you can have the lunch sponsored by like, go to an external organization that like maybe it could be like a law firm, a law firm, they provide education services, like with the different legislation and stuff. So you could also reach out to sponsors with that stream. So there are some ideas. Thank you for your question.

Sam: And thank you to our highly distinguished candidates. It's so I'm so proud of you for standing up. My question goes to everybody. As we know, Gss is a voluntary job with a mega honorarium. However, the time commitment is, it's a lot. As a financial officer, you will be required legally, officially to do 13 hours a week, but realistically, you would realize that you are doing a full-time job, which is not supposed to be so this is just to say that how open? Are you to work in more? And how flexible? Are you with your time schedule, if given this job? Or would you be available to work some time a little over the required amount of time? If that is the case, please let us know.

Abhishek: So currently, I'm doing two of the part time jobs. So I would basically crunch in my time and dedicate to this position to give an hour requirement based on the requirement for this position. So that would be my dedication. And I'm actually done with my coursework. So I don't have anything apart from doing research and dedicating my time for this work. Thank you.

Amarildo: I'm looking at time, time scheduling. It has never, it's never been an issue for me. I was working full time and I managed to squeeze in a full time MBA in between. Currently, before applying for this position position. I've consulted with my advisor. And we're both on the same page as far as we understand how much time this could take potentially take. And I'm all I'm all down for it.



Maryke: So my current schedule if I'm going to be honest, I am a single mother. So that gives me an advantage in the way of like, I really know how to manage time and if I have you know, a little bit of time I know how to get a lot of things done because in addition to being a single mother, I am I do work like I said, part time for the government officials in the K to 12 education and alongside that I'm working on my experimental medicine degree Masters. So I do have like other commitments, but I am very committed to doing this position and I also know how to I have very good I have excellent time management. Well to say that thank you.

Ye: Currently, I'm just doing my thesis moved on with coursework, so I can adjust my study time accordingly. I'm not planning to take any other jobs, if accepted. And also live on campus. I'll be pretty flexible helping out here and there.

Devarsh: So this is more on the operations side of things. So for GSS, as the organization, almost 60 to 65% of hard costs are administration goals, administration costs, such as like salaries of people, or just events and things like those, you know, sort of fixed costs. So only 30 to 35% of the money is something that we use for student events or for student benefit. So I would just like to hear ideas from all of you about how can we deduce these fixed operational goals for the society? If you have any ideas, we would be glad to hear.

Amarildo: Alright, so I'm going back, going back to what what you just stated, um, it is it is very difficult to actually take a little bit of budget where 60 to 70% of your budget is going through our salaries, and you are only left to deal with with 70% of it. The only way that I can see this going forward? Well, the two ways that I can see this going forward is one of them is increasing the incomes and we're getting through different events and different conferences and different means that we just mentioned. And second of all, it just streamline better streamline the the money that we have that 30% that will have to better streamline it to better to better that's to increase its efficiency. Those are the only two ways that I can I can see going forward.

Maryke: I thank you very much for your question. One idea that I think that I or that I do have is to probably work with the human resources in terms of looking at the positions that are available and that are currently there to see if there's any type of you know, just to see like, what what we are at what positions we actually have, and if they're necessary, or if we can downsize some of them, if it's going to be salary and like to do a really good evaluation of what the positions that we actually have, and see if there's any way there that we can work on the fixed costs is kind of would be one of my ideas. Thank you.

Ye: Thank you for your questions. My ideas are like Maryke's. First of all, I think that, of course, we can look out for more fundings either internal or external from UBC or else at UBC, just to increase the whole amount of money that we can use for those salaries and stuff. And also the other side's like, sometimes job responsibilities are entangled, and that might result in unnecessary job positions. And then we might look into those job positions and just to make just make clear, who is responsible for what and then we might be able to cut off some all unnecessary or redundant personnel. Thank you.

Abhishek: Yeah, so first of all, the as mentioned, so, our course goes more into hiring of people. So currently, the same thing has been discussing in the house financing committee where we are trying to implement the timesheets, where we can monitor the employees, activities, and we can crunch in more of the numbers with those things. And apart from that, I would also suggest fetching in the funds external funds because we can go the other way around like so we can get in more funds to have greater budget for the expenditure for the



students. So that is the One more thing. And since we have our renters I have seen from past from when I have been involved with GSS, that there are a few renovations going on the things have not the rental space is not being occupied.

Sam: thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And to all the candidates, you are all fantastic, I believe if given the not the world of function, and you will be able to do the job. I see you all have qualifications. But my question is still has to do with the availability of time and flexibility of your schedule aspects from August that GSS will be moving counsel to in person for so many reasons. And executives, meetings will also be in prayer in how available would you be if given the nod to attend some of these in person meetings? Thank you.

Maryke: Thank you very much for your question. So my availability, as I said before, I am a single mother, but I am aware that these meetings are generally in the evening. So I definitely know that I will be able to attend some of the meetings. I don't have any doubt that that is an issue. As I said, I'm really good with time management.

Abhishek: So even I live on campus. And I have been part of two committees. And recently we have started in person meeting of those. So I'm pretty much flexible on having being present for these kinds of meetings.

Amarildo: I'm very much flexible. Even in my previous positions, I used to show up at the office and just spend most of my time there and even do work there.

Sabbir: If another wave of COVID hits next year, what would be your suggestions or policy direction to mitigate the financial shock of GSS? Or more specifically, what suggestions would you provide GSS to manage their operation with a limited budget?

Ye: I experienced as a chair for the conference for two consecutive years, but first conference, like was fully online, the thing I know is with if the COVID hits, we will have like more limited funds, that's for sure. But also we'll be able to cut off some emperors and expenses as well. Like space V room fee rentals, whatever. And we can also like move most of the meetings or even if not all meetings online. And also we'll be able to cut off some personnel because last year there was only one person holding a conference and this year, we're meant to have an in-person conference.

Abhishek: So basically, the based on the the previous budget, we have seen we have a lot. We had some positive budget because there were no in person events organized. So basic, basically We would like to rework on these budgeting where we could crunch in more numbers for reducing on the in person meetings and diverting these in managing the kind of COVID-19 situation or any of these disasters where we could assess the students or the entire community.

Amarildo: So the first step would be actually to lower the operational cost if, if just in case we if we have another shutdown, the Second of all is to provide almost the same experience with platforms such as Excel events, I've used Excel events with the NGO that we've run and we've had a 85% retention throughout the entire throughout a four or five hour conference, just because the way it was built it is one of the newest platforms that is built right now. And it helps people to stay retained on events and I would say that lowering costs and introducing new technology that will actually help people stay in in those events.



Maryke: I just wanted to expand on that from my experience and education costs sort of budgets with regards to transportation and things like that they did not decrease so I think taking a look at what actually happened throughout COVID At our financial records is one way to anticipate what we should do for the future and so I would definitely take a look at that and then also probably maybe invest as was mentioned before, in any technology that would make it easier to provide a virtual events because that have been able to have the ability to do the virtual events and then have it have quality I think is a focus for us to have so policies relating to that Thank you.

Sam: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And congratulations to Abhishek. And to all of you. I know, your involvement with the GSS will not end with this. I know all most of you are in committees and you have the GSS at heart. This is just the beginning of greater collaboration between the two and the GSS. I also like to throw this invitation to you once again to carry on your life or GSS continue to be involved in our activities in our communities and in our events, and I believe there'll be more opportunities to serve in a higher role in the future. Thank you once again, everybody.

3.2 COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Group Responsible/Mover: G&A Committee

Description: A motion to advertise committee vacancies on the GSS newsletter and website.

Time: 10 minutes

Proposed objective: To have GSS committee vacancies recurringly advertised on GSS newsletters and the GSS website.

BIRT GSS committee vacancies be advertised recurringly on GSS newsletters as well as the GSS website.

Mover: G&A Committee **Second:** **Result:** Carried

3.3 HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee.

Description: A motion to update the current roster of honorary members of the GSS.

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

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Policy Revision Form](#), [Appendix I](#).



WHEREAS Council voted to appoint three members (Kimani Karangu, Aaron Loewen, and Tayo Olarewaju) as Honourary Members of the GSS,

WHEREAS Council has directed the Code and Policy Committee to add three names to the honourary members list,

BIRT the changes listed in Policy Revision Form - Honourary Members Update.docx be implemented as presented.

MOVER: Code & Policy
Committee

SECONDER:

RESULT:Carried

4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 MIDTERM REVIEW SMART GOALS

Group Responsible/Mover: G&A Committee

Description: A presentation on the midterm review of committee SMART Goals

Time: 20 minutes

Proposed Objective: To report to Council the midterm progress of GSS Committee SMART Goals

Relevant materials: [Presentation SMART Goals](#)

Discussion

Jenny: Today I'll be representing G&D to give a report on the midterm progress of the SMART goal set by GSS committees and caucuses for this year. Before I start, I want to take some time to thank all the committee's caucuses and especially the chairs for working on these goals and for communicating with us throughout this process. So without further ado, let's go into the presentation. To start off with a little background in March 2017 GSS adopted the first ever geo strategic plan from going from 2017 to 2021. And in December 2021, we adopted the second GSR strategic plan set to spend another five years from 2022 to 2026. To address the strategic plan, each JSs executive committee and external representative was tasked with a set of goals they would responsible for and j&j oversees the goal setting process for committees and caucuses, while EOC oversees this process for the executives and the financial officer. Since the plan spends five years the aim is to accomplish 1/5 of the goal every 1/5 of the goals every year. And because we just adopted the new strategic plan, very few goals have been completed so far, meaning that there are lots of opportunities to begin



addressing them this year. So why is that smart goals? Two main reasons setting feasible intentional goals helps the GSS fulfill our strategic plan on schedule, and also they make it much easier to work towards successful completion of meaningful projects. To set SMART goals, standing committees caught up and Grand Council caucus and his caucus executives as well as the Chief Financial Officer sets SMART goals within the GSS. Again, Jen a oversees this process for committees and caucuses, while AOC oversees this process for the executives as well as the financial officer. Back to how this cycle is progressing. For this For this year, we have a little timeline showing the steps completed so far. In November, we've reached out to committees and caucuses to request new smart goals. And January was a deadline for sending in preliminary goals. j&j has been spending time January and February working with committees and caucuses to revise goals and in February Council, we give a report to council on the new goal set by everyone. And currently, here we are July council to report on everyone's midterm progress. Here is an overview of the SMART goals that our committees and caucuses are working on. Academics has two goals one on creating a roadmap incorporating the work of the VP your A and VPs offices over the past two years, and the other on creating another roadmap this time regarding next steps on collaborating with the VP UI a and VP X. CPC is looking to create and pilot a new type of guiding document the committee handbook to move all the excess policies and procedures to a new space and free up the GSS policy manual. CPC is also working on formalizing the cultures meaning elections and engagement goals are to collaborate with UBC sustainability contacts and hold one sustainable event Peter, and Ian he is also working on identifying new outreach strategies and identifying and establishing regular areas of collaboration with the AMS executive oversight committee is looking into the creation of the VP finance office and also into the feasibility of creating assistant vice presidents to prevent our VPS from being overworked. As finance goals are to upgrade the old GSS accounting software to a new one and set up automated processes to streamline the current budget actuals or via process. Second, they're also working to develop strategies to effectively deploy additional revenue generated from Mutual Funds investment. And the third goal is to link GSS executive KPIs with financial incentives. Human resources is working on revising and updating the HR committee's Terms of Reference. AMS caucus goals are to follow up on the AMS impact grant committee and to create a friendship bench to catalyze dialogue about mental health issues among students. Finally, Greg Council caucus goals are to advocate for the extension of the four year doctoral fellowship into a five year fellowship and to compile and organize wellbeing resources for grad students. They're also working to assess the financial hardship and childcare needs of grad students with dependents in collaboration with the UBC current council.

4.2 JUNE 2022 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Group responsible: Financial Officer

Description: June 2022 GSS Financial Overview

Proposed objective: Update on GSS Revenues and Expenditures

Time: 15 minutes

Relevant materials: [GSS_June_2022_Financial_presentation_v1_07182022](#)

Discussion



Tayo: Congratulations to the new FO and to all the contestants. The first page basically shows that at the end of June GSS was valued. Looking at how much we had in the bank cash and cash equivalents was like Elizabeth's above \$1.5 million. And this this page basically shows the big the breakdown of those funds and write down. That's what we are we evolved that and so going Further, we'll see how different departments actually spent and received the money in the month of June. The next pages will go into the details contained on this on this page. And basically, this is kind of like a bar charts of the previous of the previous information. And then this shows what was actually the actuals, which means what was actually received or spent the budget, what was budgeted. And the variance, which is the difference between the actuals and the budget. And we see that all departments didn't spend as much money as they budgeted. So looking at the first department, which is a corporate department, which is kind of our headquarters, we see that we actually made we actually received a lot of funds principally from your revenue highlights, membership fees, leases, and some events chargebacks. Membership fees were higher than budgeted, which was reflected in our bottom line. And our expenses from this department, were majorly staff salaries, executive honoraria, and some professional development items. And looking at VP students, we see that contrary to what was budgeted, there was no revenue. But also expenses were less than anticipated. The expenses that were incurred were mainly from ao funds, EO mins athletes organizations, meeting and also order events cost. And that basically resulted in the whole expenditures from the departments get this away, the whole expenditure from the department was a little bit above \$1,000 or \$1,291, t to be to be exact. Which resulted in a variance of \$2,000 because of there was an initial budget of \$3,500. So moving, moving forward, is the President's reports your this total expenditures are \$9,000 What was budgeted was a little bit above \$17,000. The expenses been mainly came from honoraria and executive retreats and some meeting expenses.

4.3 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Group responsible: Ismail Muftau, VPUAA

Description: Presentation

Proposed objective: To provide updates to Council on the policy recommendations proposed to the G+PS

Time: 15 minutes

Relevant materials: [New policy recommendations](#)

Discussion

Ismail: I can see that the time is already faster. And so I'm just gonna rush through the, through the slides. So this is just to provide some updates on some of the activities that the the executive council committee I've been doing and some of our team members. Specifically, by way of background, you know, we've been having meetings with the Vice Chancellor, with the aid of GPS, device press president, students, and other stakeholders. And then we've been, you know, we've been advocating for graduate student interests when talking about GSS priorities. So during our last meeting with the Vice Chancellor, saddled suddenly outgoing. And then we're discussing some of the priority for GSS. And then he challenged us to say that we, we table the issue of the five to five wire, we table the issue of childcare support for graduate student parents, as well as the issue of the MSP and the challenge of that we should, we should show him, you know, what other investors are



doing and all that so that this was the background. And then we're able to come up with some policy documents. So, this document is based on some of the research that we have conducted on services that other universities you know, are rendering for the drugs to the particularly basically University. So, the objective is the proposed policy and beneficial to those students, which will elevate financial burden, you know, provide financial. So, these are the reasons and what is our duty, our responsibility as an organization is to add value to graduate students life. So this these are the objectives, proposed policy start date yet are known, but I would like to inform the House that we have submitted these recommendations and all fingers crossed, we are waiting response. So, next slide. Okay, so, the number one on the list is the MSP group enrollment for international students. I must mention here that although this is not one of the goals in the strategic plan, but we have seen that some of the investors are doing this and we believe is going to be a great relief if UBC can do this for the International grad students. And then the second policy is justice. childcare as is not on this has been on the front burner for many years. And then this administration has also decided to you know, to keep it ongoing as well. Okay, next slide, please. Okay, so on the MSP regarding the MSP, we know, all international graduate students know that every month, you have to pay a mandatory sum for the medical Medical Service Plan, which is 75. You know, so it's \$5. Alright, so we know that a lot of graduate students, maybe PhD masters are teaching assistants, Soma, research assistants, some are graduate assistant. And then we also have other category of graduate students who are, you know, working for the university in one category you want form or the other. So believe that UBC could open an MSP group plan as the employer for these employees, and then this will go a long way in, you know, providing some relief. All right. And then we are just as you know, we are saying that we are ready to partner with UBC, you know, on this for For context, SFU, Simon Fraser University is already doing this. Alright. So that's the first policy. Then the second click on it. The second slide, please. Next slide. Okay, so the next, this is the childcare assistance, we all know that UBC runs the largest childcare service in North America. And then surprisingly, there is no university wide funding program to safeguard the student parent and the family with the associated cost. And average costs of daycare could range from between 845 to 1000, or 15. And then this university, all they want that are not University related costs more. So and there are no available other options except the BC, affordable childcare, as well as the either the federal or whatever. So the BC, affordable childcare is not even available to international students. So that's why we are advocating for this. And we have also proposed ways of doing this, it could be either by a fixed amount or a subsidy. And we believe that UBC can do this, particularly since University of Victoria as well as some of us are invested. They're already on board on this. So we have made during some of our several meetings, we have, you know made this representation we have also submitted you know the policy documents, and then hopefully you would hear something positive from the administration. Next slide please. Oh, that's so so thank you everybody for hearing. So if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, please feel free and then on this note, I will say thank you to the to the entire executive committee as well as the member of the VP UA offices. Thanks so much. Thank you Madam Speaker.

5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

5.1 EXECUTIVES



5.1.1 President:

5.1.2 Financial Officer

- Reviewed and effected financial transactions at the GSS.

5.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

5.1.4 VP External Relations

5.1.5 VP Students

5.2 COMMITTEES

5.2.1 Academic & External Committee

-

5.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has been working on updating elections policies, finalizing the draft of the elections handbook, and finalizing the draft of the new All-Chairs Committee Terms of Reference.

5.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

5.2.4 Executive Committee

-

5.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

-

5.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- Requested SMART goal mid-term progress updates from committees and caucuses. Presentation prepared for July Council



-
- Scheduled committee check-ins (1:1 meetings) with committees and caucuses
 - Working on KPI automation
 - Created slide deck template to distribute to committees and caucuses – goal is to provide more info and make this info more accessible to students to encourage engagement with GSS
 - Started process on calculating the biannual GSS departmental representative calculation

5.2.7 House Finance Committee

- Outlined approval process for the use of GSS Corporate Credit card following a breach of usage
- Working with a payroll processing company to improve timelines for an internal payroll processing system
- Discussed and submitted SMART goals updates to G&A
- Reviewed budget actuals for April 2022

5.2.8 Human Resources

- We continue to work on and talk about our SMART Goal regarding the ToR for HR committee.
- We have several new members interested in joining the HR committee and 2 that graduate this summer.

5.2.9 Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee

5.2.10 AMS Caucus

5.2.11 Graduate Council Caucus

5.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.3.1 Senators:

-

5.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

-



6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: August 18 2022 at 5:30 pm

Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum at the AMS Nest (4th floor)

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

Candice Chiu was unseated as Ordinary Member from the House Finance Committee.

Sandeep Gill was unseated as Ordinary Member from Graduate Council Caucus.

Gursharn Sandu was unseated as Departmental Representative from the Allard School of Law.

Rossie Papp was unseated as Ordinary Member from the Human Resources Committee.

Ajay Venkat was unseated as Ordinary Member from the Human Resources Committee.

Leila Matte Kaci was unseated as Ordinary Member from the Human Resources Committee.

Sandeep Gill was unseated as Ordinary Member from the Human Resources Committee.

Andrew Zang was unseated as Councillor from the House Finance Committee.

7 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Mover: Amarildo

Second: Sabbir

Result: Carried