



ATTENDANCE

Present: Kathleen Gill, Teesha Luehr, Sam Kenston, Violeta Fabiani, Tobi Olowojo, Ismail Muftau, Conny Lin, Abshishek Somanagoudar, Nick Phin, Lola Akinjala, Jenny Lee, Xaanja Free, Loulou Cai, Aaron Loewen, Armin, Samia Ramium, Nurul Shishir, Eva Gnegy, Cara James, Devarsh Bhonde, Onyenka, Timothy Branch, Mohammad Huzaita, Sabbir Hossain, Shruthi Chockkalingam, Chhavi Melusa, Jorn Bannies.

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 5:40 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: Jenny

RESULT: Carried

1.3 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Tim

Seconders: Aaron

Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And thank you, distinguished counselors, chairs and visitors. We are honored to have you here; we want to acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the masculine people. We do recognize that this place has been a place of



learning for several years, and we are here acquiring knowledge and we want to be sensitive to the environment and we want to contribute meaningfully to reconciliation and to unity. And this we do take seriously GSS appreciate the fact that we can meet here. Thank you.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

2 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

At the discretion of the President, the following are deemed urgent matters for Council and are presented at the beginning of Council:

2.1 CAMPUS VISION 2050

Responsible: Joanne Proft - Associate Director, Community Planning: joanne.proft@ubc.ca; Aviva Savelson - Senior Manager Public Engagement: aviva.savelson@ubc.ca; Brittany Jang - Community Planner: brittany.jang@ubc.ca

Time: 20 minutes (10 min presentation and 10 min Q&A)

Description: Campus Vision 2050: Presentation and Discussion on Big Ideas and Choices for the Future of the UBC Campus

Objective: Provide an update on Campus Vision 2050 and then present and hear feedback on 5 Big Ideas for the future of the campus, as well as a set of choices and trade-offs we will have to make as we plan the future campus. We will also mention the many ways that people can engage throughout this phase of the process from Sept. 21 – Oct. 14, so that the GSS can share with their networks, and we can get graduate students involved in the process.

Relevant materials: [UBC Campus Vision 2050](#)

Discussion

Tim: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for this presentation, and especially for coming to our council to ask our opinions. Now, I'm going to preface this by saying that I'm a representative for a department that is primarily graduate students who are in science and do research. So that's the context. One thing I think that should be emphasized in this plan is that, and this is motivated in large part, I just came from a town council in the department, right to here, and one of the key things was affordability of being a graduate student in Vancouver. One thing I think that this plan could emphasize. And to motivate this, I'll say that, of course, we're in graduate student council. But as far as the research output of the university, having a large number of good graduate students from all backgrounds is crucial to excellent research. The affordability problem disproportionately affects marginalized groups. So I think if we emphasize housing that is subsidized to an extent and more affordable for graduate students, specifically, this is in the best interest of the administration to improve the research done in all the departments at the university. So that is where I think, to answer the third question there, where can we go through further? This is what I had.



Lola: Also, coming from the perspective of a graduate student and the science department that contributes significantly to research and the university, I was going to ask the kinds of liaising that the team is doing with it pretty much ensuring that by affordability, it that means that graduate students can actually afford it. And this is the reason I'm asking for how, who fairly using that's happening is, there's so many things that go into hiring graduate students. So like the stipends they get, or the T opportunities they get, and how much they're paid for that pretty much, why they're hired brought into the university and the value that's placed on them when they get here. And then compare that to in 30 years, the trend, inflation, all the other business things I have no knowledge about, but like how money moves, and how at that point in time, a graduate student could leave wherever they're coming from, come to Vancouver, come to UBC add value to UBC and not feel stressed, even though the wording says it's affordable for them. That was one of my questions. And then for the urban planning, also, with another question about liaising. I was wondering if conversations I've had with experts, perhaps in the ocean sciences or forestry, about the impact of these plans on the environment. And how UBC is planning or how they plan to approach the question of urbanization, while still maintaining the integrity of the Pacific spirit force that we surround and just the Yeah, the, you're surrounded by forest. And I just want to know if experts are being consulted in terms of how the urbanization will impact the environment. And then finally, tuition and I feel like whenever UBC wants to do something cool, we get to pay. So, just again, back to the affordability thing, I feel like we're going to pay for this somehow, but like, what's the plan to mitigate all of that, so that we can actually afford this easily?

Joanne: Brittany, could you talk a little bit about the process for the housing action plan review specific to who you're liaising with? And questions around definitions of affordability?

Brittany: Sure, so for the housing action plan, part of the review is looking at revisiting the affordability definition. So right now UBC uses the general standard of affordability, which is 30% of gross income. And we realize it's a problematic kind of a way of approaching it, especially for students. So I would just say thank you for the work, it's broken down into something that we'll have to think about is how we align it, and how we align it to the actual industries that graduate students have available.

Joanne: With respect to your second question about how we are ensuring, you know, biodiversity, climate change impacts, natural systems impacts are being incorporated. I mean, I think, you know, that's that, that is one of, you know, a challenge that we're all cities are faced with? And, yes, we are, we we engage with, with faculty experts, there's groups that are involving faculty and staff, I don't know if you're familiar with C, bird and C cup, but there are committees around biodiversity and ecology that we're, we meet with quite regularly, also doing our own sort of benchmarking of, you know, sort of ecosystem service assets and impacts and then working with Musqueam a lot, you know, to identify sort of, or to learn from, from, you know, how their sort of relationship with with lands can influence this process. And, and we do we have, you know, a rainwater management plan, that, that sort of addresses sort of cliff erosion, and it's in a baked into how we develop the campus, as well as a climate action plan that spells out a number of ambitious targets for climate resilience. And your third question was? Oh, well, you know, that is, it's beyond my paygrade. And certainly the, you know, the the revenues, you know, the sort of financial analysis, piece of land development and how it supports the various needs, that that's really the kind of revenue stream that we're looking at. It's not student tuition. So, but again, it's probably part of another conversation at a higher level.



Devarsh: Thank you. Thank you for the great presentation and government to the council as well. Something that I wanted to ask about is about the engagement plan itself, we saw the timeline, that you're starting with big ideas and choices that we are making at this point. And that should plan will be formulated around 2020. Food also, one thing that I just wanted to highlight is that many of the students here who are helping out with making the decision may not actually be around at that point of time. So the question is more around that, for the incoming students who will be actually that who will be facing the impact coming down four or five years down the line? Is that active engagement before the actual construction starts, their input can actually be taken into account?

Joanne: You know, as somebody who's been working in campus and community planning, engagement for a number of years, that is a challenge that we are an ongoing challenge that you know, we we work or, and it's the campus that is always changing, right, and the community is always changing and, and we're continually trying to figure out the best ways to keep people up to date and in touch and connected to this evolving campus and, and so we do different things all the time. I can't say like there's a specific plan in place for when you know, you know, construction starts but we we are actively getting better at getting people to know and understand and the plans of the canvas because it is frustrating. It's frustrating for, you know, students and everyone to see be involved in construction. And we wanted to make it a better experience. So if you have any ideas, let us know.

Aaron: Well, it's like a little right. Yeah, thank you for the wonderful presentation. And I really do like a lot of the big ideas going on here. And I'm excited to see what comes out of them after student engagement. Just kind of to touch on the last point about considering trade offs and grow. So talk about that. And then I have another question following. So in terms of the trade offs, we hear a lot about developing communities and how maybe these communities you want to think about walkability. There's the whole idea about like the four floors and corner stores idea that kind of developed me these communities, I was thinking that when we decided when we're hearing about these high rises versus lower, mid rises, mid rises, just hope that we can kind of get some insight into whether or not there's going to be like, for example, retail space, and if this retail space is going to be affordable as well, especially because we know that may be smart, we hope to see maybe external groups from at UBC, understandably, there may not be, but just kind of like maybe a bit more information on that when we talk about the size of it from the different buildings. And the question that I had is regarding the number for 3300 new student beds, not only just to figure out where did this number come from, but also because we're hearing a lot of stories about students who have to commute from, I think the two in the news recently with someone was asking to camp in someone's backyard, and you have the other news piece about people coming in from the US just kind of be like does this 3300 reflect the need that UBC has even at the moment. And in the future, that's gonna be really difficult. But I'm sure that this number has been chosen specifically. So just kind of wondering how this came about.

Brittany: So the full target is 770 1300. And it's an existing target. And basically, the build out for CB 2050, acknowledges just fully meeting the target. And it reflects only the build out through the industry in next 10 to 15 years. And then even though the whole plan goes through the next 30 years, the student housing target is the first half and then can be revisited demand, etc. And just we know with student housing, that we will never be able to build and bathroom, we just have to keep on building. So it's really just as sites and funding is available. We'll keep on building.



Loulou: How will renewable energy be used in this plan?

Joanne: So I could speak to that a little bit. So what's interesting about this planning this vision is kind of high level, right? So it's not intended to be specific. Just the commitments and the big ideas and the principles that are guiding it. And we also have a number of policies that support there'll be like supported supporting the implementation and we have a Climate Action Plan, Climate Action Plan 2030 which was recently completed about a year ago, and in that there are some pretty bold and ambitious targets for the university. On on energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases that all of the plans in this in the vision will be meeting. And so it is interesting that you call that out. But it's not specific. So it has good feedback that important to make sure that that's clear clear. What's very clear. Thank you.

Xanjaa: Hi, everyone, thank you very much for your presentation. It's my first time talking at counsel. So I'm a little nervous, I really wanted to bring this to your attention, just because the very opening of the presentation talked about reconciliation. And when we talk about reconciliation, I'm not sure that word it has very many meanings, and very many ways that people can implement ideas and ways to change processes and things that we have in our communities that are colonial. And so one of the things that I would like to bring to your attention, just because your presentation is talking about I mean, everybody knows that these lands that UBC is on is on unceded territory, it means it didn't give up the lands. So we need to think about that. And also, we need to be reminded that about what reciprocity means. And so I just thought I'd read you a little definition just as a little reminder, and reciprocity. It's the mutual exchange of privilege so that everyone benefits and has the same privileges and people repay what another has provided to them. So I would ask, in an act of reciprocity, that you may consider the opportunity to provide housing to Indigenous students free. That's my request. Because number one, there isn't. Our population is growing. However, it's a lot of our past and our family, relationships and financial positioning has made us in in need of support of social service programs because we don't have inheritances that were given to us from our previous families. And that goes across the board for most of all indigenous people because our lands are inherited. And, and our lands have been taken from us and other plate people are profiting from all of the lands and the people get nothing for them. And Victoria has taken, the City of Victoria has now made changes where they're giving the option to land owners to pay tax to indigenous people. So there is an opportunity there where reciprocity is taking place where they're sharing that privilege of the land. And so I would just like to make sure that this council knows that this one voice of indigenous people right here is saying that it is a real hardship to pay rent for me every single month. I can't afford it, I don't have a savings account. And I don't get student loans. Because I'm in graduate studies, I've passed my lifetime limit. And so I depend on my son bursaries and scholarships, scholarships, and all of that goes to rent like the majority. Like when my money comes in, I pay my rent first. And what's left isn't enough to buy like to pay my bills or my food. So that's why I'm saying like that is the biggest hardship is the land. And so I just want to remind you that these lands are unseeded, we didn't give these up. And the profits, and you've mentioned, you know, rental housing is owned by UBC, and the income that comes from all of these things. And it's just like, I can see how the funds are being not being reciprocated back. So that's all Thank you.

Joanne: Thank you for sharing that, you know, I'm actually a part of my work right now is mostly focused on our engagement with Musqueam. And in our conversations, in planning for our engagement with the community there, this has come up. And so and so I'm glad to hear it. I was glad to hear it and thank you for sharing I really appreciate it. Thank you



Jenny: How are you planning to share this information with staff, students, faculty?

Joanne: I'm glad that you mentioned that because that's a passion of mine to make sure that people and it's, you know, engagements and interesting thing, it's challenging, right and so getting people involved and then sharing, like being able to report back what you've heard and how it influenced the process and then also getting that message out right to people. So we for campus vision. There's a there's a team that with all that engagement, what's happening there, they they analyze everything, and there's a big report that's created that support Some work and in developing each step in the planning process. And then that report goes to the Board of Governors. So there's accountability. And it also gets posted on our we have a dedicated website for the planning process. So it goes on to the website, if it's there each day, like it all stays on on the website. And then if people are engaged, they'll get emails to be updated at the end of the process, and there's continual updates on each step of the way. So we're trying to keep people up to date on how the process is moving forward.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [August 18, 2022](#)

Mover: Violeta

Second: Nick

Result: Carried

3.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

| Academic & External Committee: | | Human Resources Committee: | |
|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Code & Policy Committee: | July 27, 2022 | AMS Caucus: | Sept 8, 2022 |
| Engagement & Elections Committee: | August 26, 2022 | Graduate Council: | Sept 13, 2022 |
| Executive Committee: | August 9, 2022 | Health and Dental Plan Caucus: | |
| Executive Oversight Committee | | All-Chairs: | August 12, 2022 |
| Governance & Accountability Committee: | August 10, 2022 | Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee: | |



| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | House Finance Committee: | August 23, 2022; August 30, 2022 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Mover: Jenny

Seconded: Cara

Result: Carried

4 SEATINGS

4.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

| Name | Department |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Loulou Cai | Pathology and Laboratory Medicine |

Mover: Nick

Seconded: Xaanja

Result:

4.2 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 |
| Graduate Council Caucus | Ruth Irene, Xaanja Free | Representative | 2 |
| AMS Caucus | Samia Syeoti, Cara James, Chhavi. | Representative | 5 |

Mover: Lola

Seconded: Cara

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Lola: We really need members, because we need to meet to talk about the things that the GSS needs that our money can go to. But if we don't have members, we can't meet and make decisions about what to present to



the MS caucus when we meet with them. And so bear and I start, we go to the meetings. And as expected, not much not much of anything is brought up regarding grad students, because we're just not there. So it'll be really nice if especially the newcomers, if you're really maybe not bored, but if you're looking for something to do to contribute meaningfully, in a like, and it will be really meaningful, the meetings are very long, but they're very productive. And they definitely touch on things that affect our lives that students and they're right, like the president speaker, right, a significant portion of your tuition goes to the Amis and there are only two grad students there. Even though like a lot of our money is there. So if you have the time and you're interested, love to hear some of your ideas on how we can take back some of that investment and use that to improve the quality of our experience on campus.

Ismail: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I would like to motivate for the graduate council caucus is a very important committee. Members of the Committee take very important decisions. And then you have the opportunity to also join very key committees of the Graduate Council of the GPS Council. You could join the curriculum committee, you could join the award on scholarship. And then you could also join the Graduate Council, where you get to decide, you know, very important interests of graduate students. So please go looking for members Violeta has been very kind to join us. She admitted to me earlier that she might be leaving, because of a huge commitment on our part. So if that happens, we are going to have just three members. All right. So we are advocating for people to join.

4.3 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 | | Councillor | 0 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 1 |
| Code & Policy | | Councillor | 1 |
| | Tej Shah | Ordinary Member | 1 |
| Engagement & Elections | Kathleen Gill | Councillor | 1 |
| | Stephanie Besoiu | Ordinary Member | 4 |
| Executive Oversight | | Councillor | 3 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 0 |
| Governance & Accountability | | Councillor | 1 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 0 |
| House Finance | Rachel Philips, Loulou Cai | Councillor | 5 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 0 |



| | | | |
|---|--------------|--|---|
| Human Resources | Teesha Luehr | Councillor | 3 |
| | | Ordinary Member | 2 |
| Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee | Jordan Henry | Councillor or Ordinary Member | 3 |
| | | Governance & Accountability Representative | 0 |

Mover: Violeta

Seconded: Devarsh

Result: Carried

5 MATTERS FOR DECISION

5.1 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 September 2023:

| Name of Affiliate Organization | Representative |
|--|------------------|
| Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Student Association | Hooman Vaseli |
| Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association | Lara Bartels |
| InterVarsity Graduate Students at UBC | Julia Nakamura |
| Economics Graduate Student Association | Pablo Valenzuela |
| HLI (Heart Lung Innovation) Trainee Association | Sunaina Chopra |
| Planning Students Association, School of Community and Regional Planning | Marco Sotres |
| Sauder Management Consulting Club | Satyam Bhasin |
| | |



MOVER: VP Students

SECONDER:

RESULT:

DISCUSSION

Sabbir: Are we able to get some idea about the goals or objectives from the AOs representatives?

Ismail : You wanted to know the what the organization's do. Right? Okay. So what I can say about that, generally, is that they are organizations of students, the students specifically, and they promote and protect the interests of their members. For example, at the Faculty of Law, we have the guiding laws, society or association. I know they, you know, they fight for rights, okay. They ensure that the current Lounge is well stocked, you know, when we run out of any supplies, they showed up, get them. And then sometimes they you know, they organize social events, which we attend, they don't tend to make life easier. I'm hearing with regards to so I believe, each of all these affiliate organization, they will be there to protect the interests of their members. So just you know, similar to what we do

Tobi: Okay, so the interest the graduates, it's simply just called that That for Christians. So it's an association for Christians. That's what they do. So they host events for Christians, like if you're a Christian, and you want to join a community, something like that, right. So basically, the aim is like a smile mentioned, the arrows are associations, it doesn't have to be a courses or like, depending on your program. If you're if you have an idea, and you think this idea can serve a community or a particular kind of set of people, you can come to us and if your application is approved, then we bring it here to council. So basically, some of them are for programs, some of them are just like, for different personal communities, like he said, it's to make life easy to find a community because lots of people are coming to a new place, they don't know anyone, it's always good to have something that he can, that you can, you know, join and be a part of. So that's basically what happened. So over time, you see, some organizations, they organize professional events, some organizational events, during the orientation, we had lots of arrows, organized events for incoming students. So that's basically what it's about, and to your point, are wanting to know, so I don't know if this can be possible. But if you want each representative to come to council to just speak on this, I don't know how much time that will take, then we can always ask them to come to council just to give a brief idea of what they want to achieve or what their goal is as an organization.

Aaron: Thank you, Madam Speaker. So yeah, just a point of clarification. On our in our policy manual, we do have a definition for affiliated organizations that both encompass a department, graduate students association that represents students for department. And we also have a definition for non departmental student groups. So you can look up that it's 2.5 go through there, but that's not in particular, what I was going to mention, I just want to say that all the affiliate organization applications are actually on teams. If you click to our where our agenda is, and go into the supporting documents, you can find them all provides an idea of who they are, what they are, how they've applied to become an affiliate organization, how many graduate students they represent. So while I do think that it's often important to hear from them, or it's not, it's it can be important to hear from them. It's not like they haven't built out this application that has shown that they've met the the requirements of being an affiliate organization that UPC and that these sometimes do provide some at least base knowledge as to who they are and what they do. So I'm looking, for example, at the solder man, solder management



consulting club. And I can see that they have 20 graduate students being represented by this club, and they talked about a few things that they do, such as providing hands on pro bono consulting projects, or a few other things. So if you're looking for this information, it is readily available provided that you have access to that team's channel.

Lola: Yeah, I just wanted to, I don't know if this is a question or a suggestion, really. But based on the conversation that's happening right now, I feel like it might be beneficial. And I don't know exactly how this conversation will evolve. But for some clarification, whenever new affiliate organizations or new members are being presented, if maybe beforehand, there's some document that we're familiar with, that kind of gives more information about their obligations to the GSS in return for their membership, just something that makes it clear if we don't have enough time to hear everyone's like, like reasons for why they want to be an affiliate organization, like I trust, all these are good reasons. But maybe moving forward might be a good idea to have something that's quick, or that can be done beforehand, like that part of I don't know what the criteria looks like for them to be approved by your office before they come here. But if that could, if that's already in places that could be shared with us so that we can kind of have more trust in terms of if these names are presented here, then we have confidence that they are aligned with our goal as the GSS. And then it won't be a discussion of like, should we? Do you know what I mean? Like, I think this whole conversation stemmed from a place of, we don't know why they want to join, and that could be answered beforehand

5.2 ELECTION POLICY UPDATES

Responsible: Code & Policy Committee, Engagement & Elections Committee

Description: A motion to update policies regarding elections.

Objective: To pass policy amendments.

Time: 15 minutes

Relevant Materials: [Policy Revision Form - Elections Updates.pdf](#)

WHEREAS after the 2022 GSS elections, some elections policies were noted as requiring updates to fit with current practices and improve future elections,

BIRT the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - Elections Updates.pdf" be approved with the following amendments:

Current Executives cannot use Society resources to campaign for themselves and/or other candidates which are not accessible to other candidates including but not limited to:

Replace with

Current Executives cannot use Society resources, which are not accessible to other candidates, to campaign for themselves and/or other candidates including but not limited to:



Discussion

Jenny: I just have a friendly amendment to wording to 12.5.21 to move the parts, which are not accessible to other candidates to be placed after society resources.

Aaron: Thank you Madam Speaker. I do agree with Jenny here I think that doesn't change the spirit of emotion whatsoever. So it's just rearranged to make grammatically correct which be it yes, my bad Yes.

Loulou: Do you have any post implementation in place of that one? Or is there any way that candidates now can kind of, like verify the legitimacy of those outcome of the voting or it's not being like, altered in any way?

Aaron: Maybe I'll start with this. But there's a good chance I might pass it over to someone, maybe, maybe, you know. But as far as I know, I believe the spirit of this was that. It's I think it's different nowadays that we're not counting physical ballots. I don't, I don't, I don't think there has been there's no other there hasn't. There hasn't been any other change to replace lists. But I believe the idea was that this can be verified through looking at the software, since it's not actually us counting the digital votes. And it can be verified just by looking at the voting results as a raw file, perhaps. So having a scrutineer present during the polling, and collecting on electronic vote being system results didn't seem necessary, at least from what I gather from the discussions with engagement in elections committee. Maybe Tim knows a bit more information on this or anyone else using engagement and elections. But as far as I can tell, this is something that just didn't actually have a place and was basically just couldn't be used, even if it wasn't there. But perhaps something, maybe I'm missing something.

Tim: Yeah, I guess basically, the idea is that since the voting is done online, it doesn't make sense to have the language of having a scrutineer present at someone's house computer where they're doing their online vote, I guess. So I think it's really keeping in line with the idea that of course, the vote should be scrutinized, but in a different way. Not through another person. But through the AMS voting system that we do use, which has these things built into it. Does that clarify the question?

Mover: Code & Policy
Committee

Seconded:

Result:

5.3 EQUIPMENT FOR HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING

Responsible: GSS President, Sam Kenston.

Description: A motion to buy the necessary equipment for a hybrid council meeting.

Objective: To approve purchase of equipment.

Time: 10 minutes

Relevant materials: [Hybrid equipment presentation](#)

WHEREAS councillors are interested in having hybrid meetings,



BIRT Council suspend Policy 16.4.5.A until the end of this Council Meeting

BIRT the council approves to buy Owl Pro using the CPIF with approval from HF Committee as according to the policy.

Mover: Aaron

Seconded: Lola

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Lola: My specific question involves the advantage of the owl pro over zoom or teams like what does it do?

Sam: So the owl, as you can see, right there, we can argue is it enhances the ability for those outside to have 360 degrees view. So those outside can see everybody in the room? Can we also see them? That's what I, unless we want to use that screen for them. That our enhances visibility of everyone.

Tim: I just wanted to add that I've been in a few meetings which have used the owl and they actually are very effective. There's a lot of kind of hybrid tech, that doesn't work, or is this a complete pain? The owl, on the other hand was actually quite effective and didn't require too much fixing.

Aaron: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just had two questions about this. First of all, is the idea to buy one or two of these or perhaps more. Given that, I think the next slide actually my address how much they are? Perhaps I don't actually. Okay. So how many of these are we planning to buy? I'm assuming it could be one, it may be two. And then on the other side, we talk a lot in this description and such about hybrid council meetings. But as we move towards potentially meeting in person for committee meetings, will this be accessible to anyone who wants to have a meeting, let's say in the GSS loft, or within the Kerner house, for committee meetings or other meetings that perhaps where hybrid or hybrid setting would be beneficial?

Sam: Thank you very much. I think this is a decision Council can make for a start, executive, feel maybe one for start. And to talk about availability to committees. I believe if it belongs to GSS, and council make a decision that committees can borrow it. We need to speak with our resource persons so that there is a form to feel so we properly document who is borrowing when to return it and how our equipment can be in the best shape that it is for council to decide. And I am all for it that committee members and chairs can borrow.

Lola: Yeah, just wanted to say that I did some googling. And it looks like a pretty cool piece of equipment, that would be an advantage to our society, especially because it seems based on what I've read that even one, the range of it the speaker range can be maximized if it's paired with like smaller speakers. So even if we get a minimum of one, and that's what we're able to get, we can still do a lot with it. And it's very device compatible with a bunch of meeting platforms. And I know that the AMS hybrid meetings are run by something of that nature. So I think it'd be good to have.

Devarsh: I just like to speak up on the source of the point here. So the funding for this is supposed to come from the secret from the Superfund for everyone's information is the capital improvement capital projects and improvement fund. So we have roughly \$400,000 in it. That \$400,000 is primarily meant to be used for big capital projects capital projects such as construction of buildings renovation of the aircon house or buying of



equipment that will be used for a prolonged period. So, as a part of find policy just a technicality it needs to be approved through a checkbook and then present it to council, but since the amount is just 1500 in the big scheme of things, we should be fine. But the so that everyone is on the same page.

Lola: So, this motion is it to approve a specific amount of money to buy this equipment or to approve whether we should buy this equipment.

Devarsh: Yeah, I vote to amend the motion a bit to make it more specific, so that it is not such broad and open ended. So I am going to make the motion that the council approved to buy the equipment worth \$1,500 post approval from the House Finance Committee in accordance with separate point us for the sake so that we can basically be by the books along this and the amount is also specified as 1500. Is that fine?

Ismail: Yes. I'm speaking on the amendment just to also for the mandate, if possible. And my reason for that is the council also has the honor to approve here right now with the approval of members. Instead of having to also go through the HR again, we know that the House Finance, of course they have the power. But since the motion is already tabled before the council, the council is eminently qualified to approve it with the concurrence of members yet present. So I just would like to modify that aspect, which is also requesting for HF approval. Since we're already here. We can approve it if we so wish.

Aaron: So just for my clarification, the second amendment would be to remove the approval for HF committee portion. Okay. So I'm going to speak against it since simply because while we do sit here as a council who can make this decision, our policy also clearly dictates that h f has to approve it first before even coming to council. So if we're going to be running fast and furious with the different policies, I would not recommend running that direction. I would say that simply put, we have to have a Jeff's approval at some point to use a CPF bond, we can overrule that, even if we have this HF chair here that may not represent the opinion of the entire HF committee. So I would, I would disagree with taking out that part of the amendments. If we want, if we're talking about the amendment in particular, I would just say we should leave it, we should ignore that further amendments.

The motion failed

Aaron: point of information first. If we were if council was to suspend that policy, if I want to make that motion right now. Would I just say I move to move to suspend policy 16.4.5. A, like, would that make sense at this point? Or would we have to do that separately? That does have to be done before everything? Yes. What? Can we vote this down?

Conny: You don't need to suspend anything. Because you're not violating anything, right? Yeah, that's fine. Yeah, I know the sequence is not the same, but this is not approving something h f 10. Approval just saying like, Oh, we approved. This a little bit legal loophole right now. But this one is okay.

Aaron: The exact policy says a detailed proposal for a capital improvement has been presented to House Finance Committee and subsequently recommended to Council for consideration. So the way I would read that, it would say that we have to go to a job first before Council could do anything. So my recommend I mean, my recommendation would be we go through voting this down as it's suspending the rule. And going back to it and voting on this motion again.



Devarsh: I just like to, I told everyone, you know why we are by having a policy like this is important is that technically, if you remove all that, if there are 15 people sitting here, and the council says that let's buy everyone Rolexes who is sitting here, we can just approve it. There will be nobody to stop it. That's why it is in place. Right now. It's \$1,500 Quite frankly, I'm personally in support. I'm not against it. But the reason is that the reason so yes.

Aaron: I move to suspend policy 16.4.5.A

6 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1 GSS STAFF MIDTERM REVIEW

Group Responsible/Mover: HR Committee

Description: GSS staff underwent a midterm review in July 2022. The HR Committee Chair will give a brief overview of process as well as the reviews themselves.

Time: 5 minutes

Proposed Objective: To present an overview of the GSS Staff Midterm Reviews for 2022.

Relevant materials: [Midterm review of GSS Staff](#)

7 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

7.1 EXECUTIVES

7.1.1 President:

Meetings

Had a meeting with Vice Provost, Faculty and Planning, Dr. Bhushan to discuss the \$400k GLC renovation extra funding request we made to President Ono. I was asked to provide extra documents. I will obtain these documents from GLC committee and submit it to Dr. Bhushan later.



Had meetings with faculty representatives to discuss participation on GSS council. We should be getting 80 councillors in our monthly council but so far, that's not the case. I will follow up with them again.

UBC Search committee meetings:

The UBC is requesting GSS representation on several search committees.

A new request for GSS to nominate representatives to the Chancellor reappointment committee is pending.

Killam Professor Nomination committee (filled)

Provost and Vice President Finance committee (filled)

Honorary members steering committee: Several meetings and discussions to revamp our relationship with honorary members is ongoing. Committee members include (Kimani; ex GSS president, Vivian, Eva and Sam). The first major step is the organizing of GSS Career Day where some honorary members will be invited to share their experiences at GSS and how the experience helped them in their career. Tentative date is October 25th or 26th or 27th. Details to follow.

GSS Internal Updates

The society is looking for a new communications, marketing and IT manager. The job description is posted and being promoted on the GSS website and all social media channels.

Praise report

Orientation: This year's orientation has been one of the best. Participation in all the GSS events (Games night, Happy Hour, GradStart socials, Pancake breakfast) has been at all time high level. Many thanks to the VP Students, Events Manager, Staff, Execs, G+PS and all volunteers

7.1.2 Financial Officer

7.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

GSFA Proposed Amendments

The GSFA Revision Form and Explanatory Memorandum have been sent to various committees for comments and suggestions.

I attended the meeting of the House Finance Committee to address the committee on the proposed amendments and received useful feedbacks.

Attended the Graduate Council Caucus meeting and addressed the members on the proposed amendments.

Other meetings

Attended the monthly GSS/G+PS and Ombudus Meet-up. During the meeting, I asked Professor Rogers on any updates or feedback on the policy recommendations we sent to the G+PS some months back. I also mentioned



to her that the G+PS needs to do more to support graduate students. We also spoke about our planned training for September 19.

Attended the Ombuds Advisory Committee meeting on August 29. We spoke about what UBC is doing in respect of students impacted by delay in receiving their student visas from IRCC. We also explored how these students can be accommodated to allow for hybrid or recorded classes. Generally, it has been agreed to record classes until September 19. Beyond is at the instructor's discretion.

Attended the ADA-ADS meeting. Updates on advertising new programs by the university. Going forward, the university can only advertise a new program after the ministerial approval. Faculties also not to advertise new programmes on their websites. Also, updates on the Diversionary process introduced into the academic discipline process. Also, the Academic Integrity Website to be launched.

Had a meeting with Levonne, Director Health Equity Promotion and Education on September 7. We discussed issues such as promotion of health policy and what can be done to alleviate challenges of health and wellness. We also spoke about the Graduate Students Wellbeing Ambassador's program. I was e-introduced to the Team Lead of the graduate wellness ambassador, Michelle who would assist us in update our draft health and wellness resources for graduate students.

7.1.4 VP External Relations

Presented at the International Student Orientation at the Chan Center

Helped organize Family Orientation Event

Met with ABCS and GSSBC to determine main lobby asks, so far we have identified funding, housing, childcare and accessibility so these main asks.

Participated in the student representation for CV 2050

7.1.5 VP Students

Orientation: the orientation has been going well so far. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped to get this going. I really appreciate everyone

Had a meeting with some staff from the UBC Student Health Office for a potential collaboration for health week in October

Had a few AO orientations for new AOs and renewing AO's

Other events being hosted in collaboration with the E&E committee have been successful (VOC Hike), and more events coming up (UBC Farm tour)



7.2 COMMITTEES

7.2.1 Academic & External Committee

-

7.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has been working on the Terms of Reference for the All-Chairs Committee as well as discussing special rules of order policy for Council.

7.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

- The committee is expanding as more graduate students have indicated interest.
- The collaboration with AMS VOC was successful as the Lyn Peak hike was conducted on August 27th, 2022.
- A UBC Farm tour will be held on September 20th, 2022 - event posters will be published soon.

7.2.4 Executive Committee

-

7.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

-

7.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- Working on our two SMART Goals: Key performance indicator automation and increasing visibility of GSS committees
- Received 2021-2022 grad student numbers from G+PS to re-calculate number of representatives entitled to each department
- Reviewed and provided feedback for the All-Chairs Committee Terms of Reference drafted by CPC
- Have filled most of our committee seats; there is only 1 vacancy for Councillors

7.2.7 House Finance Committee

- Reviewed and approved the budget actuals for May, June, and July 2022. The expenses for all four GSS Executives were significantly below the budgeted amounts for June and July 2022, suggesting that the planned (or budgeted) events/activities/meetings may not have been held.



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- The transition to a new accounting services provider has been completed, and Sept is the first month to address any identified inefficiencies.
 - First contact meeting with Sauder's for extending the lease of the Ballroom organized. A three-year option for extension was discussed with the potential for a 5-year extension. The current lease amount is \$87,000/yr.

7.2.8 Human Resources

- The HR Committee has been approving the hiring of new WorkLearn staff, discussing midterm reviews of our current staff, and had discussions around the use of the professional development funds for GSS staff members.

7.2.9 Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee

7.2.10 AMS Caucus

- None at the moment. We are in the process of recruiting more members to the caucus to achieve quorum and proceed with our agenda items.

7.2.11 Graduate Council Caucus

7.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

7.3.1 Senators:

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7.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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8 NOTICES

8.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: October 20th 2022 at 5:30 pm

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



8.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

Taylor Ricci was unseated as ordinary member of the Human Resources Committee

Yuran Zhang was unseated as representative of the Grad Council Caucus.

Taryn Scarff was unseated as ordinary member of the Engagement & Elections Committee.

Eshita Swain was unseated as representative of the AMS Caucus.

9 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Mover: Aaron

Seconder: Jenny

Result: Carried