



ATTENDANCE

Present: Sabbir Hossain, Ismail Muftau, Totu Babatande, Mehmet, Cara James, Tonje Molyneux, Teesha Luehr, Claire Thorimbert, Sam Kenston, Faeze Keshavarz, Violeta Fabiani, Fiana Kawane, Muxi Guo, Simarjeet Nagpal, Rachel Phillips, Kathleen Gill, Abhishek, Aaron Loewen, Nurul Shishir, Alex Babin, Jonah Berean, Amin Shadi, Samia Syoeti, Anjana Rajendran, Olivia Tsihiliias, Ruth Irene, Cong Zhou, Tobi Olowojo, Franziska Mey, Xaanja Free.

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 5:35 pm.

1.2 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Sam

Second: Aaron

Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: We are gathered today from the ancestral territory of the Musqueam people. This place is a place of learning, knowledge transmission, and it's been home to some people. And we don't take that for granted. We want to be conscious of that on reaching out to traditional owners. Thank you.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [November 17th, 2022](#)

Mover: Violeta

Second: Aaron

Result: Carried



2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	Nov 21, 2022	Human Resources Committee:	Nov 7, 2022
Code & Policy Committee:	October 3, 2022; Nov 7, 2022	AMS Caucus:	
Engagement & Elections Committee:	Nov 18, 2022	Graduate Council:	
Executive Committee:	Nov 9, 2022	Health and Dental Plan Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee		All-Chairs:	Nov 18, 2022
Governance & Accountability Committee:		Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee:	
		House Finance Committee:	Nov 22, 2022; Nov 8, 2022

Mover: Sam

Second: Jonah

Result: Carried

3 SEATINGS

3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Firoozeh Gerayeli	Experimental Medicine

Mover: Violeta

Second: Tobin

Result: Carried



3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

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

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

BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	2
Graduate Council Caucus		Representative	0
AMS Caucus		Representative	2

Mover: Muxi

Second: Sabbir

Result: Carried

3.3 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

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

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

BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy	Shishir Nurul	Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	0
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
Executive Oversight		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	0
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	0
House Finance		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	0



Human Resources		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	1
Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee		Councillor or Ordinary Member	3
		Governance & Accountability Representative	0

Mover: Sam

Second: Alex

Result: Carried

4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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

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

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Neuroscience Trainee Association	Anjana Rajendran

MOVER: VP Students

SECONDER: Aaron

RESULT: Carried

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1.1.1 GSS STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Presenter: VP UAA

Time: 20 minutes

Description: Update on the annual GSS Student Satisfaction Survey



Objective: Give an update to the Council on the survey report

Relevant materials: [Survey Presentation](#)

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

6.1 EXECUTIVES

6.1.1 President:

- Sam had a meeting with the GLC to get an update on the bidding process
- The provost office approved \$100k extra for the GLC project
- We had our first career day event in the loft. This is the beginning of exciting regular events for the Society
- GLC project will start end of this month – the bid will be awarded this month and construction will start next month
- Planning ongoing for January orientation and Grad student experience trainings

6.1.2 Financial Officer

- Streamlined reimbursement and payment process with Enkel to speed up technological barriers
- Completed 2022 Auditing, reviewed audit reports. Presented to HF committee, waiting for council approval for final sign off
- Updated and paid tax to CRA
- Implemented seamless process of time management software and trained all WLs
- Retrained Executives and Employees with new procedures of accounting process.
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6.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

We conducted the GSS Student Satisfactory Survey for 2022. We have also finalized the report and a summary update to be presented to the Council on December 8, 2022.

· I have just recently submitted my reports regarding the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, as a member of the committee. I have now been assigned more applications for some other projects under the TLEF funds.



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- Attended the Executive Retreat, where we discussed issues affecting the society and how we can deepen graduate students' engagement and add more value to graduate students at UBC Vancouver. Furthermore, we discussed future goals, plans and events and divided roles amongst ourselves.
 - Participated in the Vice President Students (VPS) tuition engagement and consultations regarding some newly introduced programs at UBC. We have submitted our comments and recommendations regarding the UBC proposals in respect of the new programs.
 - Submitted the End-of-Term progress report on the SMART goals to the G&A Committee on behalf of the Graduate Council Caucus.
 - Updated and finalized the Health and Wellness Resources for graduate students.

6.1.4 VP External Relations

Set meeting with the Honorable David Eby

Represented graduate students and brought our interests in CV2050 advisory committee meeting

Attended the opening of the food hub and helped allocate the \$15,000 towards food security initiatives for graduate students

Discussed in the RCMP meetings issues about safety of students

Attended International Federation of Students meetings representing GSS

Provided the graduate student perspective at the Presidential Search Committee

6.1.5 VP Students

Meeting with the orientation team in preparation for winter orientation ongoing

Majority of headshots were sent out with the help of Eva Gnergy

Planning for an end-of-year holiday event

Planning for winter subsidy events in progress

6.2 COMMITTEES

6.2.1 Academic & External Committee



We have begun the process of reaching out to municipal and provincial government representatives for assistance in applying for grants for the HSA/GSFA. We've begun to research other possible funding avenues as well.

6.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

We have been reviewing updates for the Elections handbook as well as starting to decide which part of the Policy Manual we will be working on taking out next. We also continued our annual forms review.

6.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

The committee will end the year's meetings with an outing on December 10th.

We are considering a mental health event in January 2023 and looking at Forest Therapy.

We are closed for new ordinary membership but need 2 more councillors

6.2.4 Executive Committee

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6.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

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6.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

Trying to wrap up G&A's SMART goals Email requests to committees/caucuses for new SMART goals for 2022-2023

6.2.7 House Finance Committee

Reviewed inconsistencies with the new accounting platform and its workflow.

Outlined corrective measures.

Discussed staff and WL student appreciation for people working with GSS for longer than 1 year.

Reviewed status of \$700,000 mutual fund investments with ScotiaBank Investment Specialist.

Outlined protocol for further investments in mutual funds.

6.2.8 Human Resources

1. 2021-2022 HR SMART GOALS END OF TERM PROGRESS REPORT: Considering the HR committee member's transfer and the new HRC just seated, the 2021-2022 HR SMART Goals will move into the 2022-2023 HR SMART Goals. HRC will finish the first draft of the HR Committees Terms of Reference by the end of November 2022



and propose to discuss and approve at the December 2022 Human Resources Committee Meeting.

2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: postponed to the next meeting. Summarize the previous content we decided on before our next meeting so we can review all the regulations we came up with, discuss amendments, and then vote for implementation.

3. Employee Recognition Program Proposal Approved by HR Committee.

4. DOCUMENT DISCUSSION: "EXIT INTERVIEW", "TRANSITION AND TRAINING MANUAL FOR GSS EXECUTIVES," and "TRANSITION TRAINING MANUAL FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS" need to amend according to the Corresponding discussion by HR Committee;
"Complain Form and Exit Interview Form" Approved by HR Committee.

6.2.9 Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee

Update:

- Interest in the Indigenous Ad-hoc Committee is slow to gain.
- Responses to call out by fliers are nil.
- Discussions with Indigenous students on a one-to-one basis have led to responses that indicate that participation must come with incentives because time is a factor to participation.
- In other words--We have to offer a reciprocal relationship. [Reciprocity—The mutual exchange of privilege so everyone benefits, and has the same privileges, and people repay what another has provided them.]
- Asking students to join the committee without an offer of something, isn't supporting them in any way.
- What is not working: Uber eats vouchers aren't exciting anyone to join, nor are fliers or word of mouth.

Recommendations:

- It is imperative to **create a web presence**, in order to have an active role in the GSS.
- The committee needs access to a space where a student body can meet, on campus where food and seating is available at no cost to individuals invited to participate.
- *The Indigenous Ad Hoc Committee* needs a dedicated space or an account at a location on campus where we can provide food and the space to converse where we are welcome and safe. It is necessary to offer this for meeting with Indigenous students, it is how --we as Indigenous peoples—meet.
- It would be a good to have a means to connect with Indigenous students with the **provision of gifts to honour their time**. This is a cultural act of honour that is a normal way of supporting time. This request should not be considered as "personal gain", it is reciprocity. Taking something, and giving back. Taking time, giving back for that time.

Membership: Committee has not had a chance to meet and is seeking membership for vacant seats.

Indigenous Chair: Xaanja Free

Indigenous Committee Member: Pauahi Souza



Indigenous Committee Member: Raghavi Sundaram

G&A Committee Member: Vacant

Committee Member: Vacant

***new Committee Member:** Fiana Kawane

- The committee has lost one of our Indigenous committee members, Jordon Hendry due to time constraints.

6.2.10 AMS Caucus

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6.2.11 Graduate Council Caucus

6.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

6.3.1 Senators:

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6.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, January 19th 2023

Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum- AMS Nest 4th floor

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

Leanna Stackhouse was unseated as Departmental Representative of Forestry.



Leanna Stackhouse was unseated as Councillor of the Code and Policy Committee.

Shishir Nurul was unseated as Representative of the Health and Dental Plan Caucus.

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Mover: Sam

Seconder: Violeta

Result: Carried