



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Aaron Loewen, Andrew Zang, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Claire Thorimbert, Ezra Yu, Faeze Keshavarz, Ginny Pichler, Jenny Lee, Jess Wei, Joern Bannies, Kimani, Karangu, Leila Matte-Kaci, Linnan Zhou, Natalie Cappe, Sam Kenston, Sinna Halvei, Taryn, Scarff, Teesha Luehr, Temitayo Olarewaju, Tim Branch, William Canero, Maria Mawyin, Yuran Zhang, Adenike Adelaku Amarildo Ceka, Eva Gnegy, Tobi Olowoyo, Sabbir Hossain, Conny, Lin, Vivian Tian

**Regrets:**

**Absent:** Carmen Watson, Georgia Yee, Max Holmes, Axel Hauduc, Leanna Stackhouse, Rachel Phillips, Sirajul Mustafa, Yundi Wang, Sandeep Gill, Yundi Wang, Jackson Schumacher, Lisa White, Gursharn Sandhu, Bethany Adair, Nurul Afcher

**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 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:** William

**RESULT:** Carried

### 1.3 AGENDA ADOPTION

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

**Mover:** Tayo

**Seconders:** William

**Result:** Carried

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



**President:** Thank you so much, Madam Speaker and members, presence today. Today being my very last meeting to chair as your President, thank you for your support. And now out go ahead and acknowledge as we have traditionally done, we are gathered here today to discuss about the society's progress. And of course since our last meeting, and on behalf of the UBC GSS, I would like to acknowledge that our campus that is UBC and our society Gss is situated in Vancouver Point Grey campus, we which is on the traditional ancestral and uncaded territory of the Musqueam people. We are very thankful to our hosts that is Musqueam and the fast nation for allowing us to hold these meeting on their land today. I'd also like to acknowledge that you also joining us from many places today, near and far and I would want to acknowledge the traditional owners and caretakers of those lands that you come from. Thank you so much. And wishing you a very progressive and fruitful discussion for tonight. Thank you Madam Speaker.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

## 1 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

*At the discretion of the President, the following are deemed urgent matters for Council and are presented at the beginning of Council (not exceeding 10mins):*

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

- [March 17, 2022.](#)

**Mover:** Sam Kenston

**Second:** William Canero

**Result:** Carried

### 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>		<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	
<b>Code &amp; Policy Committee:</b>	March 10, 2022	<b>AMS Caucus:</b>	
<b>Engagement &amp; Elections Committee:</b>	Feb 09, 2022; Feb 16, 2022; March 10, 2022; March 23, 2022.	<b>Graduate Council:</b>	March 8, 2022



<b>Executive Committee:</b>	March 11, 2022	<b>Health and Dental Plan Caucus:</b>	March 15, 2022
<b>Executive Oversight Committee</b>	March 17, 2022	<b>All-Chairs:</b>	March 11, 2022
<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	March 10, 2022; March 24, 2022	<b>Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee:</b>	
		<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	March 8, 2022; March 22, 2022; April 05, 2022.

**Mover:** William Canero      **Second:** Jenny Lee      **Result:** Carried

## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

Name	Department
Md Sabbir Hossain	Population and Public Health

**Mover:** Sam Kenston      **Second:** Sina Halvei      **Result:** Carried

### 3.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

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

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

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

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
AMS Caucus	Eshita Swaine	Representative	1
Graduate Council	Atul Aravindakshan	Representative	1



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

**Mover:** William Canero

**Seconded:** Yuran Zhang

**Result:** Carried

## DISCUSSION

**Yuran:** Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I wanted to speak to motivate council members to join graduate council caucus. So graduate council caucus is the link between GSS and the graduate and postdoctoral studies. So here the majority of graduate student matters we'll be discussing inside of this caucus squared, including graduate curriculum, academic policies, award and scholarship are within the scope of graduate council caucus. So I will like to motivate members of this council especially new members to consider joining graduate council caucus and currently one of our major work is to design the students satisfactory survey for informing our future advocacy. Thank you so much.

**Speaker:** Congratulations well the two got elected on to those two positions. And moving on to committee sittings be resolved the following committee sittings be approved. We have several nominations already and then many other more vacancies and then a mover and seconder to discuss this.

## 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	2
Code & Policy	Sabbir Hossain	Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	1
Engagement & Elections	Faeze Keshavarz	Councillor	2
	Ruth Irene	Ordinary Member	2
Executive Oversight		Councillor	3
	Amarildo Ceka	Ordinary Member	2
	Maryke Peter		
		Councillor	2



Governance & Accountability		Ordinary Member	0
House Finance		Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	2
Human Resources		Councillor	0
	Tej Shah	Ordinary Member	1
Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee		Councillor or Ordinary Member	2
		Governance & Accountability Representative	0

**Mover:** Jenny Lee

**Seconded:** Kimani Karangu

**Result:** Carried

## DISCUSSION

**Jenny:** I thought that a lot of people might be graduating so. So could we please, maybe go around the room and ask a representative from each committee to motivate on behalf of joining their committee, please

**Kimani:** But if it's out here, no. Madam Speaker, the academic and external committee is I know, one of you know, as all committees are very important. And the importance of this particular one, it deals with issues that our students are facing academically, and of course, matters affecting them externally. That means the office of the VPU. A, is highly highly connected to this particular committee, and the Office of the Vice President external, because those are the two offices that do a lot of advocacy work that affects students to be able to articulate issues pertaining academic and external affairs of our student, that affect us, they will need to be discussed, deliberated, brainstormed, in a manner like you suggest it will represent the interests of the graduate in society. And this is the one committee that deals with these particular matter. So for those who have got the advocacy, activism lobbies him in them, this is the committee you need to join, if you'd want to see change, coming faster than lightening, you know. And, of course, it is very vibrant. And of course, now that the countries are opening up, usually, members of these do help the VPs, as I mentioned, do those advocacy work, drafting policy statements statement that need to go not only to UBC as an institution, but also to the federal government, and also to the provincial government, there is a lot of, you know, information skills, and other you know, assets that you're likely to gain. By the virtue of becoming a member of this particular committee, you get a lot of insights into it. So please, if you are there, and you're an ordinary member, you are coming to proxy, please join the two positions available for now. Consider yourself to join and even if you do not, please, I aspire to go to one of the meetings and see what happens there. With that, Madam Speaker, I beg to stop talking.

**Speaker:** Thank you. So if you want to nominate yourself or your friends who are graduate students, you can just type in a chat with the name and the committee. Okay. I'm going to move on to code and policy. Who would like to motivate?



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**Aaron:** Um, so yeah, so my name is Aaron. I'm the chair of code and Policy Committee, and I'm here just to briefly motivate especially any incoming councillors to join our committees so we do detail oriented work regarding changes made to our governing documents, including our bylaws and policy manual. It's a great way to get involved in GSS simply because we do work with the various committees so we get to see a little bit of what's going on everywhere. But beyond that, the results from our committee are usually very tangible results, we get to see the changes as they get applied to the rest of our society. And yeah, I think that as we move forward, I think we have a lot of big projects coming up that we would love to get more hands on. So if you're looking for a place to join, CPC would be a great one for you. Thank you.

**Kimani:** So Madam Speaker and members present today, engagement and elections, just did an amazing job by making sure that I am retired soon conducting elections. And of course, to do that they needed to engage as many students as possible. I think this election, the past election, you know, witnessed a huge number of voter turnout. And this was because of the works of this particular committee engagement in elections having been merged together. You know, previously, the services and elections. And, of course, if you're so keen on electoral processes, campaigning, asking people to toe the line, and you do not like corruption, this is the place you need to be. This is where you learn how to manage elections fair, free. And just, and of course, that engage a lot of students that, you know, they are, they are, there is too much take for them. So, Madam Speaker, you know, I think I would want to nominate Pfizer for Consular position in election and engagement.

**Aaron:** Executive oversight committee. So again, this is Aaron. So I think you're hearing just come on in here and go back and forth. But I promise you, it's the last committee I will be talking about today. So let in or sorry, executive oversight is the body that oversees the executives as the name kind of alludes to, what we do is typically we work with incoming executives and we go, we take them in as they're just beginning their terms, set SMART goals and follow up with them throughout the year to keep the executives on track. We also try to think of different ways that executives, how oversight can generally be done with the focal point of the executives, as well. If there are ever complaints about our executives, we are the first point of contact for that. And we will be the ones who discuss and deliberate how these complaints may be handled. So we do it. It's a very interesting committee and you definitely get to meet different people with differing viewpoints. And although I may not be chairing this in the future, as this is my or I'm stepping down as chair and we have another excellent chair coming in. I would highly recommend anyone who is also interested in getting into oversights and see how executives work to join this committee.

**Jenny:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, to give a quick blurb about what GNA does. So we're short for governance and accountability. So we work to oversee and support the performance of all the other committees and caucuses. So we communicate regularly with them to ensure that they're functioning. And also that the goals of GSS strategic plan are being tackled and fulfilled on time. Apart from that we are also the main committee involved in reviewing the governance structure of the society. So if you're into setting goals, governance reviews, or you just want to be able to quickly get a sense of what all the other committees are doing j&j would be a great committee to join.

**Devarsh:** I am Devarsh and the chair for the House Finance Committee. So the House Finance Committee or looks all the financial operations of the society. So I'll give some examples. For example, Uber Eats vouchers that you guys receive after every council meeting. So deciding the amount for that is something that the House finances, as well as the deciding amounts for the different salaries that our executives as well as the full time



staff receives, that is something that the House Finance does. We have different rental properties, like the coldness bug or the ballroom. So how much should we be charging for that is something that the House Finance will decide, in addition to the eggs, very big decisions, such as investing or move to half a million dollars of our funds into some mutual fund investment accounts, is something that the House Finance does. So I wanted to give a broad spectrum of different decisions big and small. That happened in our committee. So I would strongly encourage you guys to join our committee and we have a lot of openings for counselors as well as ordinary members. So do consider joining us.

**Kimani:** the chair for Human Resources Pauahi. Oh, yeah. But I know some of the things that happens as the house. That is not how sorry, I'm very sorry, the rush. That is not how finance this is human resource. Members, we have one ordinary member position for how for way missing house, sorry, for human resources. Now, I know all of us are in school, some of us have got the idea that they would want to be employed, while others I'm very sure you have already started creating opportunities to employ the people. Now how do you decide who to employ or not who to employ? How do you become the next Elon? The guy who makes Tesla's sorry, don't include that meeting today. I'm just giving an example. Now, human resources, this is where you make all those decisions. This is why You see the behind the scenes to see how the society is running. And especially when it comes to hiring of our staff, I do not articulate so much about the firing, we do the hiring, they do the firing themselves. But we don't, of course, we do not. Since I came in position, we have had an increment in the staff positions and all that from for, for example, from work land position to 16, it needs a lot of dedication and a very supportive team of the human resources, because they will decide on what did these people need to do, and who is the best candidate for this. So meaning there is a whole process of learning how things are done, when you want to have humans that are need that need to be resourceful in our society organization like this one. So again, a very serious set of skills that are very soft, and you learn these things over time or over a period of time, and at your pace. And you of course, feel good when you start making decisions, and seeing things that are happening, having been made possible by one of the decisions that you made. So if there is anybody here who has got, you know, an inclination of wanting to know more about hiring and firing and promotion, and making work places safe, you know, you know, positive, you know, all those vibes, those good vibes, this is a community that you need to join. And even if you're a counselor there, and you would want to know about all these innings and especially as has been mentioned, people are about to graduate. I think this is a place that you could maybe try to come and see how interviews are done and all those other things and sharpen the arrowhead. Madam Speaker over to you.

**Kimani:** I think I promise I'm speaking on this one as the last one for today, and as far as committees are concerned, but I would want to say that it is in our interest. And I want to talk about our interests and talking about the interest of the Graduate Student Society, to not only make the commitment in spoken words, that we are committed to the reconciliation, and especially with our hosts, that is the masculine people, we would also want to move a step ahead and try to live by that. And that is why Madam Speaker, we have decided that we may want to have an indigenous engagement Ad Hoc Committee, which will steer the way of how the relationship is going to shape up between the Graduate Student Society. And I think some of you may not know. But if you look at the logo, or my logo there, you find that or the thing that is the logo for the GSS, the new one was created as a result of our engagement and collaboration with the masculine nations, Suzanne did Darwin. So to improve on these relationships, engagements, we would need to have a group of students that identify as indigenous or allies of indigenous people. So then at least we can move the discussion of, you know,



the reconciliation into actionable items, and especially from a graduate student position, we know we have a challenge, but this is one of the steps that we can help our colleagues, our comrades, and of course, respecting the people of the land that we call UBC. So members, if you know of anybody who identifies as indigenous, they are welcome to join this particular committee. And once we have that opportunity filled, I think all the members can join and of course, we can ship the discussion moving forward. So these are special committee and of course we would want not that it has we Wood wants to treat us so and it must respect. So Madam Speaker, I think that that's it from my end.

### 3.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

**BIRT** the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Executive Oversight Committee	Nicolas Phin

**MOVER:** CPC Chair

**SECONDER:** William

**RESULT:** Carried

## 4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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

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

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
AMS Children's Literature Student Association at UBC	Minori Hato-Hopkins
Black Graduate Student Network	Olaitan Ogunnote





**MOVER:** VP Students      **SECONDER:** Leila      **RESULT:** Carried

## 4.2 AMS/GSS STUDENTCARE PARTNERSHIP EXTENSION

**Group Responsible:** Kimani Karangu (GSS President)

**Description:** A motion to continue the Studentcare Partnership

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Objective:** to inform and update Council about the AMS/GSS Health & Dental plan.

**WHEREAS** the students of UBC have agreed to implement an Extended Health and Benefit program through a referendum conducted in October of 1999, and to continue this Plan through a referendum conducted in March 2001 and

**WHEREAS** a Committee composed of representatives of the Alma Mater Society and the Graduate Student Society of UBC has reviewed the operations of the AMS/GSS Health & Dental Plan, and has determined to contract with Studentcare for the provision of services and management of the plan,

**BIRT** the following agreement represents the understandings and responsibilities of the parties

**BIFRT** Council directs the president to sign the document on their behalf

**MOVER:** Kimani Karangu      **SECONDER:** Shishir Nurul      **RESULT:** Carried

**FOR (16):** Ezra Yu , Teesha Luehr, Natalie Cappe, Jenny Lee, Yuran Zhang, Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Aaron Loewen, Taryn Scarff, William Canero, Andrew Zang, Sina Halvei, Tim branch, Claire Thorimbert, , Faeze Keshavarz, Leila Matte-Kaci, Jörn Bannies.

## DISCUSSION

**Kimani:** So, Madam Speaker, I believe we had a presentation that was made. Last month in the month before, we also had another presentation made by the health and dental that this didn't care and, of course, matters to do with dental and health, and also the Vice President, finance from the AMS, Mary who did a presentation, but particularly Madam Speaker, to break down further what this motion entails and all that the spirit of these is that for the last 20 years, or thereafter, they are about, we have enjoyed this, the services of, you know, that have been offered through the partnership, both AMS and GSS. Through the health and dental Committee, and the people who provide us with these services, that is their student care, we have we have always held a contract with them. And of course, we have had these contracts expire and renewed and for the last 20 years plus all these the contract has been renewed for maybe two or three years or so. And there has been no



increment into the service to the services that they charge the AMS or the GSS. And now with all what is happening globally, there is a lot of inflation, and during our deliberations and agreement, and especially from the MSI and all that which has also been agreed upon Madam Speaker, that the review or the reviewing and the reviewing body, that is the committee has agreed that we sign or we signed the document, proposing to have a contract extended to work together with again with Student Care for another three years. And of course, after that it will be reviewed again. But it has a cost effect, which is a proposed of \$1 increment to that effect. And just to remind our people or the people that are likely to be voting here, why we were swayed into thinking to this direction is because like, if you remember when COVID hit, person or the organization that was willing to help international students who were not able to travel to Canada. And, you know, the Student Care was the only provider to facilitate a special online opt out process that allowed impacted students to request a refund of the cost of the of the plan, because there was, you know, for those who were affected know what we're talking about here. And of course, still at the same time when the pandemic was at its pick. They also we had also issues of travel. And of course, they didn't care did a review of all travel coverage policies, which is ordered in asking the our insurance provider the PBC to remove a clause that was saying that in case you get something not something but in case you contracted COVID, in the worst happened, they would not cover that. So we were able to campaign and advocate for that and that clause was removed and people started enjoying the benefit of being covered if even when the COVID was the cause of you're not feeling okay. So and of course that is within the plan of the MS and the GSS going forward. And of course they have also expanded the plan, the outreach, the campaign, which has been you know, they have been doing the campaign both in person and of course, virtually we have had a lot of that happening in the residences, the MSRB says the university enrollment services you know, we the staff, if they have also done a lot of consulting with the graduates to Just societies and other affiliate organizations and clubs that are here. And also, those who can remember last year that is interested in to one the Student Care who partnered with Rexall pharmacy operated a day long flu clinic in the in the AMS nest building, and they ended up vaccinating about 500 people. So these are just to mention a few of the things that the Student Care has completed or have have, you know, done for the last so many years, and they have been doing it at the same cost. But we are trying now to sign a contract, if we do not sign maybe a contract with we don't sign a contract with them, then we start to fall so badly. And of course, we are not likely to be well represented when any of us fall ill or they need to be reimbursed on any of their sort. To finalize Madam Speaker, the same motion was moved at the AMS. And I think they passed the motion unanimously, because they do understand what is at stake if we do not have the Student Care coming in between, because they are the people between us and the health insurance companies that we deal with. They are the people who understand our needs as graduate students. They have been with us for over 20 years, and so on and so forth. So we'll need by the end of the day, we'll need somebody to be in that gap. So I would wish and Madam Speaker Now I would want to move and ask members to favorably consider this motion. And four, vote for it. So that at least we can sign a contract because we cannot self sustain ourselves, we do not have any other option other than signing the contract with them so that they can continue providing services for the next three years, when the people will sit down and decide whether they would want to continue with them. Or they would want to seek services from other people, and so on and so forth. Madam Speaker, I beg to stop.

**William:** So from my understanding the AMS and the GSS through the AMS GSS healthplan has a Premium Assistance Fund so that individuals experiencing financial hardship can get a full reimbursement of the health and dental plan. Is that still available with the reciting of this contract with the insurance company? Thank you



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**Kimani:** Thank you for that question, Madam Speaker, in this case, the signing of the contract is to expand the services they have continued to offer. So if that has been offered, they will continue offering that as well.

**William:** Are the funds available for that subsidy still? Like is it the same amount of money? Or are we increasing that pool of money so that people who might still be experiencing financial hardship can access more money or there's more people who can apply for that?

**Kimani:** Madam Chair, then the money Yes, I know that all I know is that we have reserve yours within the health and dental Committee. It is It looks amazing as of now, but I would want to say that we have committed that money. I am saying I because we because I am one of the members who sit in that particular committee. We have committed some money to the effect of increasing the mental and health coverage psychological benefit coverage. If you remember, we used to have like a coverage covering to a tune of 300. But I think as we see today, that coverage is going to a tune of about 100 1500. So that is like almost five holds and of course we have not been asking members to like put more money we have been tapping into the reserves that we have had. So I to answer the question in short brief, I would, I would say yes, the money is available there. And of course nothing this this contract the signing of this contract does not alter anything that has been provided. All that it does is to make sure that there is continuity of those services to be provided. That's all it needs. And of course, providing those services and also trying to reduce the gap, the inflation gap by \$1. That is there. So I think the answer is yes.

**Tayo:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. And thank you, Mr. President for the presentation given. So my question is regarding the proposed increase as especially for increase. So at the last Council meeting, we actually passed a resolution that there should be a fee increase of around 4%, which adds up to 12%. And it appears that now this is another request for the same fund, right? Or the same AMS GSS dental medical plan to be asked to, again, be increased by \$1. And so my question is \$1 per student, so there'll be an increase of \$1 for every student. That's my understanding. So, my question then is, is this subsequent increase necessary or required considering our resolution last two months, which already resolves that there should be a fee increase? So why, well, why is this necessary, because I would have taught that the inflation concerns will be covered by the increase of last month.

**Kimani:** Madam Speaker, these are two different entities, and different coverage and different agreements. The issue on the table is to a service provider, that is the Student Care, these are the people who negotiate on our behalf, to our insurance companies going forward, what we did last time, which is I think I would address that, although it's out of order was to increase the, the benefits had not that had not been increased, before and this was to tapping to do whatever is obvious that we are there. If I may, may say that. But to stay on the topic, Madam Speaker, today, we are only talking about signing a contract between ourselves and Student Care, who service providers that have provided, you know, that needed information or needed gap between ourselves in our insurance companies for the last 20 years, and they have provided these services without asking any increment. I know some those people who came before me may have more information about these and I did not want to delve into that, because most of that was discussed in camera sessions. But madam speaker for today, we are just requesting to have a contract signage for them to continue offering the services they have continued to offer since 20 years. You know, you know, like 20 years,

## 4.3 ELECTIONS REPORT



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**Group Responsible:** Elections & Engagement Committee

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Description:** Presentation

**Objective:** Provide an overview of Elections 2022, voter turnout, and recommendations.

**Supporting Documents:** [2022 Elections report.pptx](#)

**WHEREAS** Elections & Engagement Committee has overseen the 2022 GSS elections

**BIRT** Council ratifies the result of the 2022 election.

**MOVER:** Andrew Zhang

**SECONDER:** William Canero

**RESULT:** Carried

**For(17):** Yu Ezra , Teesha Luehr , Bukola Mary Ibitoye, Andrew Zang, Tim Branch, William Canero, Jenny Lee, Faeze Ke, Sam Kenston, Aaron Loewen, Natalie Cappe, Sina Halvei, Claire Thorimbert, Yuran Zhang, Taryn Scarff, Jörn Bannies , Leila Matte-Kaci.

## DISCUSSION

**Adenike:** My name is Adenike Adelakun. And I'm the electoral and student engagement officer and I am presenting to council the result of the last elections that just got concluded in March. So to the timeline of the election, so we had the cases on my screen though. So the timeline of the elections we had the nomination period, we started in January 21. And it was supposed to be from January 21 to February 21. And because we couldn't have like a lot of people, no, a lot of people signed in for all the positions available. So we had to extend by one more week. So in excellent object February 28. So within that period, we set up the election policy panel, which consisted of me, Sarah Park, William Canavero, and Victoria Buckley. So the EPP is essentially there to ensure that there's fairness in the electoral process. So we had certain candidates will sensing and ammunitions. And three of them would yield and ammunition before the end of the nomination period. February 28 5pm, the nomination ended, and 5:30pm We had an info session for all candidates, where we essentially told them what is expected of them and the rules of engagement to the elections Officially campaign started on March 1 to match things although when voting started, candidates were still allowed to campaign. On March 9, we had our all candidates debate, which was the first in person since the beginning of the first and person debates in the beginning of the pandemic. The debates was live streamed, and we had all candidates attend fiscally except for one due to financing circumstances. The voting platform was a mess simply voting system. And during the voting period from March 11. To march, it seemed, I was the one in charge of the simply voting platform and I sent out three email blasts for two people who had not voted. The early mornings of March 19. The results were viewed together for the first time by myself by syrup pack and by an ex official member of the GSS. And the unofficial results were published on the website and then tweeted on our GSS elections Twitter page. And now to the results we had 109 for boats, and for the position of the



President, about 64.6% of candidates who voted voted for the winning candidate for the position of the vice president external relations of the of the voters who voted we had that 4.8% of them voting for the winning candidate, and then 9% of them abstain from voting. For the position of the Vice President's University and academic affairs, we had Texas 7.4% of people who voted voting for the winning candidate and 12.1 % abstaining from that. And also the voters done out of the 11,346 eligible voters in this elections, we only had 9.6% of them vote. And this slide shows the voter strength from 2018, up to 2022. And we can see in 2022, we had 9.6% of eligible voters voting, which was the highest in the past four years. So how do we engage students during the election process? So first, I mentioned earlier that when the nominations were called out, the nominations were placed on GSS website, and then in the newsletter, so essential means of engagement, where the newsletter, just as websites and just as social media accounts, and we also had a GSS elections Twitter page, where we put in everything that was going on with the elections. The other media platforms we use to actually engage students was to announce the nominations on the UBC media platform, which was, it's a, it's a media platform, or UBC, where most students like engage with it, and most students read it. So we asked them if we could actually put out a nomination and then they did, and they posted it on their website on February 9. So for some successes and challenges that we encountered during the period, we had our first in person debates with livestream since the pandemic, and which had a great turnout and which was also live streamed on Facebook. The turnout was increased from comparing it to the past four years, there was the highest turnout we've had in terms of voter turnout. And then the election policy panel ensured that campaign materials were approved within 24 hours that the candidates sent the materials to them. And now to the downsides of what we experienced. First, there was no clear cut channel of communications or the communications team, because at the time when elections was going to start, the former communications person was leaving and when we had a new person, so there was a lot of breaking communications occurring. But then we were able to like seal true. And also some of the policies are outdated. And we had lots of back and forth with EPP like discussing what to do with some situations, I'm going to give some examples. First, there was a part of the policy on elections that says that whenever there is a tie in the votes, the election and engagement officer should throw a coin to determine who wins and we feel that should not be there that is not very, not every random mentor. Also, there was no clear rule for how to meet. Two matters penalties for candidates will go against the rules of the election process. So within the EPP we devise the point system to determine when a full disqualification is warranted. Although we didn't have to use that, because all candidates acted in accordance with the election rules. Part of the policy manual says that there's need for scrutiny as at the end of the elections when the input is being counted. Because it's on an electronic box platform, the circuit voting system, there is no counting of votes, like the the results are essentially aggregated. So we think that that part of the policy manual should be updated to reflect that it's not a fiscal vote, and it's an online voting system. And there is actually no way to dispute or recount the results. Because it's there you can recount with everybody has just won CW hell again, and everybody has just one chance to actually vote. Also, there were situations where there are no clarifications of the role of the election and Engagement Committee and the election policy panel. And we've, we've shared all of this with the code and Policy Committee, and we know they're working on that. So also, we express the technical glitch during the nomination period where a candidate sent in the nomination form on the last day of the election period, but we didn't find it in our email system. And then they reached out to us three days after an admission and they're wondering what was happening and then we had to go back into all the email channels and to confirm what happened and we were able to put them back on to running into elections. So four recommendations. First of all, would ask that GSS has a dedicated



communications team so we develop a streamlined communication process during the election period. So we would like that is a point that there's a development of a point system for deciding on when to mentors penalties and how to meet up penalties. And we've discussed this with CPC, and they're working on that. Also, in future elections, it'd be great to also apart from working with UBC, when we did it also be great to work with other media houses like Google. And also potentially we could also work with students from school of journalism. Lastly, is to update the election policy we've shared like the points which we need to be changed and updated. And the CPC is currently working on that. And that brings me to the end of my presentation, I want to say congratulations to all the new executives and the current executives, and thank you to all who ran for the executive position.

**Tayo:** Thank you Adenike for the presentation and for conducting a very successful election. So my question is more of a clarification. I'm sure. You will have had more in depth discussion with CPC. And so I was just wondering about the proposed updates to elections policy, right. So in this last election, we had two current executors actually run for different positions, right? The VP UAA and the VP students, which I'm sure you you're well. And it seems that the recommendation is have any current executive or an informed election, step down. And so I was just wondering if you can please expand on that on that point.

**Adenike:** So to the question. So truly, we had two candidates who were current executives running for positions. And one of the things that EPP discussed, although it wasn't the policy manual was the fact that he even though that we laid out rules for how to ensure there is no unfairness. It would be better for that whoever's running for position and which question executives should step down whenever they're running for position. And even right, I think Sarah mentioned that there was a time where Kimani was running for the financial executive or something for President presidency, and he was the Fe O at that time. And then I think he had to step down. Please correct me Kimani. At some point. I don't know if I'm addressing you. I'm so sorry, dressing. But that's something we've suggested as a CPC, and it's not within our purview to determine like, what happens like but back and forth with CPC, we would know what to actually put any policy manual and hopefully presented to council.

**Aaron:** I just wanted to just say, Thank you for running the last election season. A nice day and to Sarah and the rest of the engagement Elections Committee, but are sorry, not but CPC will look over everything, all the recommendations, but I did. I do think that the the idea that executives have to step down, I just want to maybe put a bit more background from what I remember from that situation was that the only reason why I believe Come on, he had to step down in that situation particular was because previously the the fo position was the F E O. And in that regard, the Fe O which would have been what command would have held was the would be overseeing the executives during the entire election. And that was seen as a potential issue going down the line in terms of conflict of interest or any sort of other power dynamics. So I like I said CPC will discuss this a bit further when we do convene, but that is my understanding of the situation.

#### 4.4 HONORARY MEMBERS NOMINATIONS

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



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

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

Aaron Loewen and Kimani Karangu

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

**MOVER:** Kimani Karangu      **SECONDER:** Sam Kenston      **RESULT:** Carried

## 4.5 GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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**Responsible:** Nicolas Romualdi

**Description:** Presentation about GSS Governance Review

**Objective:** Provide Council Members with a preliminary report about the findings of the governance review and recommendations.

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Supporting Documents:**

**Motion to move discussion in-camera.**

**MOVER:** Kimani Karangu      **SECONDER:** William Canero      **RESULT:** Carried

[Discussion continues in-camera]

**Motion to continue discussion in-camera.**

**MOVER:** Leila      **SECONDER:** Kimani      **RESULT:** All Opposed

[Discussion moves out of camera].

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 EXECUTIVE SMART GOAL END-OF-TERM REVIEW

**Group Responsible:** Executive Oversight Committee

**Description:** Reporting of the Executive's SMART Goal end-of-term progress.



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**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Document:** [2021-22 End-of-Term Executive SMART Goal Review.pptx](#)

## 6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

### 6.1 EXECUTIVES

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#### 6.1.1 President:

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Together with other Execs, reviewed G&A smart goals for their midterm.

#### 6.1.2 Financial Officer

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- Reviewed and/or effected financial transactions at the GSS.

#### 6.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

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- Drafted questions for Student Satisfactory Survey with Graduate Council Caucuses
- Proposed provision for Academic Misconduct Regulations on Academic Calendar
- Interviewed for 2 work-learn positions with the general manager and HR contractor
- Transitioning work with the incoming VP UAA

#### 6.1.4 VP External Relations

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- (None submitted)

#### 6.1.5 VP Students

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- (None submitted)

### 6.2 COMMITTEES

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#### 6.2.1 Academic & External Committee

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## 6.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has worked on formulating an all-chairs committee to replace the current iteration of the all-chairs meeting, as well as began further work on updating the elections policies. Further work will be presented to Council regarding elections policies in May/June.

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## 6.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

- We hosted our final event of the term (Koerner's Happy Hour) at the end of March! We have met with the Events Manager to figure out plans for Orientation 2022 and also wrapping up loose ends from Elections - look out for a presentation with the ESEO to highlight what happened during results and our recommendations.

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## 6.2.4 Executive Committee

Transitioning at its best

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## 6.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

- EOC has worked on reviewing SMART goal progress of the outgoing executives as well as began work on the transformation of the Financial Officer position into a VP Finance position.
- Aaron Loewen will be stepping down as Chair of EOC and Nicholas Phin will be taking over this position.

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## 6.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- Reviewed committee check-ins and discussed GSS goals/initiatives that we may need to work on based on these
- Brainstormed G&A SMART Goals
- Sent in last cycle's G&A SMART Goals to executives for review

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## 6.2.7 House Finance Committee

- Approved budget actuals for Dec 2021 and Jan 2022. Delay due to accounting software server issues.
- Approved bonus payments for all GSS Executives 2021-22 term related to the implementation of the referendum that increased executive's honoraria.
- Streamlined the process for internal payroll processing.
- Outlines the process controls for GSS' business credit card usage in-line with industry best practices.
- Approved estimate for deep cleaning of Koerner's Pub grease trap.



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## 6.2.8 Human Resources

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## 6.2.9 Indigenous Engagement ad-hoc Committee

## 6.2.10 AMS Caucus

## 6.2.11 Graduate Council Caucus

- Discussed and fished a draft of 2022 SSS survey questions for student funding and childcare services available for graduate students, AMS is unresponsive to collaboration.
- The remaining work for the SSS survey will be transitioned to the incoming VP UAA.
- Discussions on logistics for SSS, looking to increase the budget for incentives.

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## 6.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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### 6.3.1 Senators:

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### 6.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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## 7 NOTICES

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### 7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

**Date:** May, 19 2022 at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Michael Kingsmill Forum at AMS Nest

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### 7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

- Mohamed Kamel was unseated as Departmental Representative for Civil Engineering.
- Shayan Fahimi was unseated as Ordinary Member of the House Finance Committee.



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- Brook Haight was unseated as Ordinary Member of the Engagement & Elections Committee.
  - Daniel He was unseated as Ordinary Member of the Executive Oversight Committee.
  - Sofie McComb was unseated as Departmental Representative for Forestry.
  - Sofie McComb was unseated as Councillor of the Academic and External Committee.
  - Sofie McComb was unseated as Academic and External Representative of the Graduate Student Financial Aid Panel.

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:24 pm.

**Mover:** Andrew Zhang

**Second:** William Canero

**Result:** Carried