

GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, April 21st 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm.

Present¹: Amber Shilling, Adam Howe, Andrew Leyland, Andrew Alexander, Bingyu Liu, Bradley Balaton, Chandan Sejekan, Charles Copeland, Christina Wiesmann, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Emily Gray, Enav Zusman, Francisco Gómez-Lopéz, Jasleen Grewal (proxy for Hamza Khan), Harry Li, Ingrid Olson, Sneha Balani (proxy for James Lawson), Jennifer Zhao, Jennifer DeBoer, Jennifer Bok, John Dupuis, Katerina Othonos (proxy for Xun Zhou), Kaye Hare, Kelsie Lix, Kevin Mehr, Krish Maharaj, Kyle Loewen, Logan MacDonald, Maichael Thejoe, Marysol Garcia Patino, Mirza Sarwar, Natalie Marshall, Natasha Little, Parker Jobin, Peter Chen, Shadi Balandeh, Shona Robinson, Tal Shalev, Tobias Friedel, Vasilli Triandafilidi, Xiaolei Deng, Yaseen Mottiar, Yulia Merkulova, Zoe Lam.

Regrets: Chen Vu, Dan Kehila, Dylan Burrows, Emily Allan, Jennifer Campbell, Joon Seon Lee, Julie Van de Valk, Kyla Drzazgowski, Mary-Anne Shonoda, Olenka Forde, Raghav Grover.

Absent: Anujit Chakraborty, Chad Rickaby, Hooman Shahrokhi, Joann Anokwuru, Maayan Kreitzman, Nicholas Dawson, Ran Xiang, Sarah Simon, Taqdir Bhandal, Veronica Knott.

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:47 pm.

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Logan MacDonald

SECONDER: John Dupuis

Amendment to strike motion 8. There will be a presentation to Council on GSS Loft space usage which has been already adopted by House Finance Committee.

Amendment PASSED by unanimous consent

Back to agenda as amended.

MOTION PASSED 27/0/0

B. BIRT the following seating is approved:

Karen Simmons to be seated as Departmental Representative for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

** effective May 1st*

David Gill to be seated as Departmental Representative for School of Library, Archival and Informational Studies.

Gillian Fuss to be seated as Departmental Representative for Forestry.

** effective May 1st*

Morgan Shepherd to be seated as Departmental Representative for School of Library, Archival and Informational Studies.

Nimisha Arora to be seated as Departmental Representative for Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Shakun Singla to be seated as Departmental Representative for Architecture.

Amanda Pisis to be seated as Departmental Representative for Cell and Developmental Medicine.

¹ Councillors only

MOVER: Tobias Friedel
MOTION PASSED

SECONDER: Bradley Balaton

C. Introductions

Motion to go in camera session inviting speaker and incoming Execs.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel **Seconder: Harry Li**
MOTION PASSED

In camera session concluded at 7:40 pm

Meeting was called back to order 8:20 pm

D. Presentations

(10 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)

- GSS Grad Loft – Space Usage Philosophy – Shona Robinson.
 - House Finance committee has developed philosophy of a new space usage and also new procedures to implement.
 - Great space on 4th floor, top floor of AMS Nest with big windows and fantastic views;
 - Presented layout of the space: main entrance, office space and three main rooms.
 - 1st room is Graduate Student Lounge for socializing, different events like workshops, craft bear untapped, etc.; there are tables and comfortable sofas for grads to work and socialize.
 - 2nd room – Seminar room, not as nice in terms of setting, large room for seminars and workshops. 3rd room is a smaller, of the size of GSS Boardroom.
 - Preliminary document was disseminated outlining rules and procedures for space usage.
 - GSS Loft is a really bright and an amazing space to have great time.
 - GSS Loft will be open to graduate students between 7 am and 5 pm to socialize, relax, spend time with friends.
 - After 5 pm if you are GSO can book this space to hold events. Room rental is free of charge. If there is alcohol at the event, a small supervision charge will apply which is minimum - the cost of salary for supervisors.
 - Decided not to go with damage deposits, but rather require preapproved credit cards (\$100), trying to keep cost friendly.
 - Graduate students will be able to book the rooms online for 1 hour slots with an option to book a couple of slots in a row.
 - Access to space is with UBC card, for graduate students only.

Questions& Answers

It was asked and answered that GSO stands for Graduate Student Organization and clarified that affiliate organizations will be given priority.

It was asked and answered that ideally plan to have a screen with a booking schedule in the space. It was further noted that there is no policy on kicking out people from already booked rooms.

It was further asked about a minimum supervision cost and answered that it is around ~\$16/hour.

It was further asked about implementation and answered that HF is still working on timeline and to coordinate with AMS key desk.

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It was further asked and answered that space is open till midnight and all students will be asked to leave by security if stay late.

It was lastly clarified the location of the GSS Loft.

Tobias made a quick announcement and congratulated Natalie Marshall with honorary membership conferred to her at the last Council meeting and handed certificate.

D. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

2. Notice of Unseatings (*no vote necessary*)

Julienne Jagdeo has been unseated as Code and Policy Representative.

Dan Kehila has been unseated as Code and Policy Representative.

Wendy Kei has been unseated as Human Resources Representative.

Christie Waltham has been unseated as Departmental Representative.

Hashem Jeihooni has been unseated as House Finance Representative.

Shakun Singla has been unseated as Human Resources ordinary member.

Morgan Shepherd has been unseated as Human Resources ordinary member.

3. BIRT the following seatings are approved:

David Gill be seated to the Academic and External Committee.

Tobias Friedel (as ordinary member effective May1st) be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.

Tobias Friedel (as ordinary member effective May1st) be seated to the Human Resources Committee.

Leslie Liu be seated to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

MOTION PASSED

4. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

Nicholas McGregor be appointed alternate delegate to the Alliance of BC Students.

MOVER: Bradley Balaton

SECONDER: Tobias Friedel

MOTION PASSED

5. BIRT the following appointment is approved:

Natalie Marshall, Yangfan Zhang, Christina Wiesmann be appointed to the Faculty of Science Council

MOVER: Harry Li

SECONDER: John Dupuis

MOTION PASSED

E. Approval of Minutes

6. BIRT the minutes of the GSS Council meeting dated "March 24th, 2016" be approved as presented.

MOVER: Bradley Balaton

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

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Friendly amendment to replace all mentions of “Krish Maharah” with “Krish Maharaj.”

Friendly amendment to add seating to the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

Friendly amendment to add seating of Chaahat Singh to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

Friendly amendment to add Katerina Othonos as present proxy for Xun Zhou.

MOTION PASSED 27/2/1

7. BIRT the following committee minutes be approved as presented

Code and Policy January 12 th , 2016;	Academic and External March 8 th , 2016;
Code and Policy December 1 st , 2015;	Academic and External March 22 nd , 2016;
Code and Policy January 25 th , 2016;	House Finance March 15 th , 2016;
Code and Policy February 9 th , 2016;	House Finance March 29 th , 2016;
Code and Policy March 1 st , 2016;	Harassment and Discrimination January 20 th , 2016;
Code and Policy March 15 th , 2016;	Harassment and Discrimination February 16 th , 2016;
Academic and External February 23 rd , 2016;	Harassment and Discrimination March 3 rd , 2016.

MOVER: SECONDER:

F. Executive Remarks

(3 minutes)

• President – Tobias Friedel;

- It is customary to give a bit of a more general report. It has been an exciting time at GSS. First joined as Councillor three and half years ago, was a fun ride and pleasure working with many fascinating people, expertise and knowledge that what kept me going for such a long time.
- Was called a recovering student leader - at first seemed weird. After finished first degree, promised not to be involved with student government again. Shortly started at UBC and relapsed it. Would like to leave a couple words with this council – call of recommendation for moving ahead. Think back to January/February when we had our elections and ask yourselves why did not run. Probably there was a reason. Now with four new incoming Execs keep this in mind. Be critical, but supporting, hold them accountable, but do so reasonably. This is the way. During all these years enjoyed working at GSS, hope this will continue. Time to move on, quite a journey ahead of it. I will come back to hound you if you mess it up.
- Last month attended conference in Connecticut, hosted GU 15 at Thea Koerner House for graduate student organizations from across the country. There was a couple of productive days. Trying to get some planning for future on grad student matters. This group of student leaders will have some impact going forward. Thanked all.

• Vice-President External Relations – Bingyu Liu;

- Last month: attended ABCS lobby days in Victoria. During advocacy week discussed scholarships, tuition fees, funding, housing, sexual harassment, etc. Based on the feedback and attention around it, should continue advocating for scholarships next year. Also attended GU 15 conference.
- As it is last council meeting would like to thank everyone, won't be able to get it through without help and support from Councillors. Completed Executive transition report with some of the issues

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- Thanked.
- Finance and Oversight Officer – Xiaolei Deng.
 - Finances: reviewing budget with HF and GM. Putting together budget for next year. Working on performance appraisals.
 - Oversight: investigating a few complaints. Cannot disclose any information yet. In general, it concerns what was discussed in camera. Once report is completed, it will be presented to Council.

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar
MOTION PASSED 26/0/5

SECONDER: Amber Shilling

G. Committee Reports *(3 minutes)*

- Code and Policy Committee – Julianne Jagdeo²
 - We have had two meeting this month. The committee finalized a style guide for the final review of the policy manual in its entirety and has forwarded this to a professional editor. We also drafted and prioritized a list of upcoming projects for the committee to do in the upcoming months, one of which is creating policies for a committee chair transition checklist, which facilitate a smoother transition in between incoming and outgoing chairs and we have already begun putting together a draft. And speaking of outgoing chairs, by now I have probably been unseated as a member of CPC. It has been a pleasure working with a group of motivating graduate students such as yourselves. And thank you to all the CPC committee members, past and present. You are the reason we've accomplished so much, you guys are awesome!
- Executive Oversight Committee – Xiaolei Deng;
 - Reiterated info from previous report.
 - Discussing way to develop new training materials.
- House Finance Committee – Shona Robinson;
 - Reviewed Profit and Loss statement, working on a new budget;
 - Working with Kevin on Loft space usage philosophy;
 - Looking into several CIF projects;
 - Will be bringing a motion to Council to include GSS Loft into CIF, currently not allowed to use funds to do capital projects there.
 - Started talking what want to contribute to the strategic plan.
- Human Resources Committee – Amber Shilling;
 - Looking for ordinary members.
 - Sent out email about workplace climate survey;
 - Will be compiling results for the next meeting.
- Strategic Planning – Sneha Balani;

² Written report

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- Had a meeting last week - identified a few areas, adding goals and actions;
- Have been in touch with chairs to get feedback in the areas that struggling to do strat plan;
- Hoping to send a first draft before next meeting with a presentation and discussion at May Council.
- Harassment and Discrimination – Katerina Othonos.
 - Had a couple of meetings this month to discuss survey platform, data analysis and data acquiring from students.

H. Representative Reports

(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – Bradley Balaton;
 - Had Executive Elections;
 - GM of AMS resigned;
 - Director UBC Athletics presented on the buildings;
 - Block Party was a success;
 - Underwent Governance review;
 - Discussed that AMS fails to represent some groups, have longer councillors terms/overlap, junior and senior councillors.
- Graduate Council – Natalie Marshall;
 - had one meeting since last reported;
 - highlight of the meeting was that UBC does not allow part time grad studies.
- Presidential Search Committee – Amber Shilling.
 - met once; had a full meeting reviewing short-listed candidates;
 - booked 5 days in May for interviews – first round starting next week with final interview in a second half of the month;
 - Plan to report of the result by the end of June;
 - Happy with the breadth of candidates and multiple interests;
 - All members are very dedicated.
 - Feedback was carefully reviewed and incorporated in the review process.

I. Affiliate Organizations Reports

(3 minutes)

- GrasPods – Natasha Little.
 - AO in the Cancer Agency including Research and GSAT centre. We serve GSS student that happen to be in that part of the world. From January to April have been holding 6 computing workshops; lectures with invited speakers; 5 job in science interviews - encourage finding podcast on the GrasPods website who missed the interviews; 3 workshops from PhD to Strategic Management and Consulting, 3 networking lunches; promoted and hosted 2016 GSS elections; had board game social. Also host weekly yoga sessions, art nights, volleyball, beach volleyball, team in the GSS soccer league. With UBC bike community will be hosting two workshops. Thanks for making this possible!

J. Question Period

It was asked about GSS commissioner positions and projects they are working on, to which the answer was that things have been going slowly. President got busy with other things that took attention away from the commissioner projects. Generally, this initiative is going well. Each commissioner has his/her small project that currently is working on. It is a recommendation for next Executives to maintain this concept. They are not quite close to completion on any of those projects. It was further noted that GSS held GU 15 conference for graduate student societies/unions across Canada. Had a welcome and continue developing relationships with Musqueam people. Putting some pieces together for other projects, also in a final stage for programming.

Move to amend to appoint a new chair for CPC.

MOVER: Tobias Friedel

SECONDER: Amber Shilling

MOTION PASSED

BIRT Tobias Friedel be appointed Interim Chair of the Code and Policy Committee.

MOVER: John Dupuis

SECONDER: Maichael Thejoe

MOTION PASSED

K. Council Motions

~~8. GSS Grad Loft Booking Procedures~~

~~WHEREAS the GSS will control the space in Room 4202 of the AMS Nest dubbed the "GSS Grad Loft" and,~~

~~WHEREAS to ensure responsible use by students there must be procedures in place for the use and booking of the space and,~~

~~WHEREAS the House Finance committee recommends that GSS council adopt the procedures described in the document "GSS Grad Loft Booking Procedures",~~

~~BIRT GSS Council adopts the procedures described in the document "GSS Grad Loft Booking Procedures".~~

MOVER: SECONDER:

9. Event Fund Application - GrasPods

WHEREAS the BC Cancer Agency Graduate Student and Post Doctoral Fellow Society (GrasPods) have applied for and been granted funding for the event titled "GrasPods Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party",

WHEREAS funding granted without a special approval of the Services committee is limited according to policy 8.4.1,

WHEREAS GrasPods has requested \$575 in total funding for this event,

WHEREAS this event may reasonably qualify for up to \$783 in total funding, based on guidelines for event funding set out by the Services Committee,

WHEREAS \$300 has already been approved from the Event Fund,

BIRT Council approves up to an additional \$275 for reimbursement up to a total of \$575 from budget line 14-860 (GSS Event Fund) for the event "BC Cancer Agency Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Society Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party"

MOVER: Jennifer DeBoer

SECONDER: Morgan Shepherd

Motivation by Elizabeth: GrasPods had AGM and Christmas party past December, funds were spend to purchase gift cards, prizes for grad students, etc.

MOTION PASSED 26/0/1

10. 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 2017:

- Botany Graduate Student Association;
- Educational Studies Graduate Student Association;
- Anthropology Graduate Student Association.

MOVER: Amber Shilling

SECONDER: Krish Maharaj

MOTION PASSED

K. Other Business and Notice of Motions

L. Discussion Period

M. Notices

N. Submissions

- GSS Grad Loft (Nest room 4202) – Space Usage Plan;

N. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 19th 2016

O. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:28 pm.