

GSS Council Meeting Minute

Thursday, September 15th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | Minute taker: Odo Ansah.

Present : Adam Howe, Amanda Pisio, Anna Ringsred, Bradley Balaton, Charles Copeland, Christina Wiesmann, Dan Kehila Dante Mendoza, David Gill, Emily Gray (proxy), Emily Allan, Gillian Fuss (proxy), Harry Li, Jasleen Grewal, Jason Speidel (Sneha Balani Proxy), John Dupuis, Karen Simmons, Katerina Othonos, Kaye Hare, Kelsi Lix, Krish Maharaj, Logan McDonald, Mahshid Ghaffartehrani, Marysol Garcia Patino, Miranda Huron, Natalie Marshal, Nicholas McGregor, Oguzhan Tuysuz (Coskun Islam proxy), Shadi Balandeh, Shona Robinson, Veronica Knott, Yaseen Mottiar, Zoe Lam, Gen Cruz, Jennifer DeBoer

Absents: Andrew Leyland, Andrew Alexander, Dylan Burrows, Elizabeth Bulaeva, Francisco Gomez-Lopez, Hamza Khan, James Lawson, Jennifer Campbell, Joan Anokwuru, Kyle Loewen, Mirza Sarwar, Morgan Shepherd, Natasha Little,

A. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 5: 58 pm.

Quorum was at 24, there were 27 people counting towards quorum

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

MOVER: Zoe Lamb

SECONDER: David Gill

Amendment to strike the approval of the 21st July and 18th August minutes from the agenda

MOVER: Gen Cruz

SECONDER: Bradley Balaton

Motivation of Amendment by Gen Cruz

- The minutes are not ready. We want to give Council the best version possible

Adopted unanimously

Amendment to include a motion from the Strategic Planning Committee to the agenda section (E) Council motions number 3

Motion reads:

WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society (GSS) Bylaws state that "The Society shall have a Strategic Framework approved by Council by a Special Resolution; the Framework establishes the priorities and direction of the Society" (Section 14.1), and

WHEREAS the GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee has prepared a draft of the GSS Strategic Framework, and provided to Council in its entirety ("*GSS Strategic Framework: 2017-2021*") as well as in summary form ("*Overview of the GSS Strategic Framework*"), and

WHEREAS the GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee has sought feedback from GSS committees and GSS Councillors,

WHEREAS feedback from the GSS membership is vital to determine the priorities and directions desired by GSS constituents, and

BIRT the GSS Council ratifies the September 15th, 2016 version of "*Overview of the GSS Strategic Framework*" as a draft to be published on the GSS website and made available

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to graduate students in order to solicit comments and feedback on the Strategic Framework;

BIFRT the GSS Council ratifies the September 15th, 2016 version of the complete "GSS Strategic Framework: 2017-2021" document as a draft, to be made available through access to the Overview document, so that graduate students may provide feedback on specific proposed Actions within the draft Strategic Framework.

Q. Kaye Hare – Is the September 15 version substantially different from the version presented last time?

A. Speaker answered that question cannot be accepted until the amendment is completed

MOVER: Gen Cruz

SECONDER: Adam Howe

Motivation: Sneha Balani (Strategic Planning Committee Chair)

- Documents were sent yesterday but due to server malfunction, not sure if Councillors received the documents.
- The idea is to make two documents:
- One is an overview which only states the goals which are similar to things presented before and it is a bigger document which is the BIRT clause which is a more detailed document of the Strategic Framework
- The idea of this motion is to have a four (4) pager overview available online for people to give comments on
- Due to the short notice, the Strategic Planning Committee proposes that Councillors will take some time during dinner to review the four-page document which is similar to a lot of things presented before.

Amendment adopted unanimously

Motion to amend the agenda to include Raghav Grover to the list of unseatings

MOVER: Gen Cruz

SECONDER: Logan McDonald

Amendment adopted unanimously

Vote on Amendments to the agenda

24/3/0

B. Introductions

The speaker, administrative assistant, executives, Councillors and guests introduced themselves. Matt Gynn was present as a nominee for the Service Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes

~~a. BIRT the following GSS Council meeting minutes be approved as presented.~~

- ~~• July 21st 2016 Council meeting~~

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• ~~August 18th 2016 Council meeting~~

b. BIRT the following GSS Committee meeting minutes be approved as presented

- House Finance Committee- August 12th, 2016; August 26th, 2016

MOVER: Amanda Pizio

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

Adopted Unanimously

C. Seatings, Unseating and Appointments

3. Notice of Unseating (*no vote necessary*)

Sima Valizadeh- unseated as the Chair of the Services Committee

Dante Mendoza –unseated from the House Finance Committee

Jennifer Campbell- unseated from the House Finance Committee

Jennifer Campbell- unseated from the Executive Oversight Committee

Shadi Balandeh –unseated from the Human Resources Committee.

Elizabeth Bulaeva- unseated as a Departmental Representative for Experimental Medicine

Jennifer Campbell- To be unseated as a Departmental Representative for psychology

Peter Chen- To be unseated as a Departmental representative for Computer Science

Dylan Burrows- unseated as a Departmental Representative for History

Raghav Grover- unseated as a Department Representative for Civil Engineering

4. BIRT the following Seatings are approved:

Code and Policy Committee (2 Councillors 2 Ordinary Members)

Nominations for Councillors: Amanda Pizio (Departmental Representative to Cell and Developmental Biology) nominated herself to be seated to Code and Policy Committee (1 Councillor)

Motivation -Krish Maharaj (Chair, Code and Policy Committee)

- The Committee is working well
- Committee has been working on drafting policy, getting forms and instructions formalised
- The Committee will be busy in the next couple of months and will need extra hands to help.

Nominations for Ordinary Members: None

Executive Oversight Committee (2 Councillors)

Motivation – Dante Mendoza (Finance and Executive Oversight Officer)

- The Committee has not been working for some time

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- This is because the Committee is not able to make quorum
- The Committee is tasked to oversee the accountability and performance of the GSS executives.
- It is therefore important to have the needed people to be able to conduct its business

Nominations: None

Academic and External Committee (3 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)

Motivation - Dan Kehila (Chair, Academic and External Committee)

- There has been a turnover of the chair
- There are a lot of open spots for a while
- There are not many people involved as needed and it is actually very interesting and of crucial importance to the Committee and the AMS.
- The Committee has two very competent and responsible Executives- Mashid Ghaffartehrani and Nick McGregor
- They have wealth of knowledge about what is going on with graduate Students in BC, Canada and UBC in general,
- What the whole interaction is like between graduate students in UBC Lasing with the administration, provincial government, with other Universities
- Anybody who thinks any of this is interesting should join
- Time commitment is Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4:00 pm and 6pm and meeting duration one hour thirty minutes (1 hr :30 mins). Meeting is once every other week

Motivation -Gen Cruz (President, GSS)

- The Academic and external Committee has been inactive for some time and the executives are trying to get it going.
- There was a meeting earlier on how to structure what the purpose of the Academic and External Committee is, why the need for it, what conversations in UBC the GSS needs to be a part of.
- An important item on the Committee's list is the excellence fund. There is also a policy that imposes a 2% cap on raising tuition for selected master's programs
- There are also the different advocacies for our external advocacies that GSS need assistance in and also internal advocacies.
- Also the Committee is trying to improve the emergency fund
- This Committee is very essential and need members in order to function well

Nominees: None

Strategic Planning Ad hoc Committee (1 Councillor 1 Ordinary Member)

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Nominations: None

House Finance Committee. (2 Councillors, 1 Ordinary Member)

Nominations: None

Human Resources Committee. (1 Councillor, 3 Ordinary Members)

Nominations: None

Services Committee. (1 Councillor and 2 Ordinary Member)

Motivation - Jennifer DeBoer (VP Students)

- The Committee has lost two members- the Chair, and Christina (1 Councillor) so the Vacancies should be 1 Councillors and 2 Ordinary Members.
- There has been a tremendous amount of programming going on as well as quite a few affiliate organisations interested in utilizing the event fund.
- The Committee is amazing but would love to add more amazing people to it

Nominees for Ordinary Members: Matt Gynn

Point of information

Q. David Gill - Is this where we appoint Chairs also for the Services Committee?

A. Speaker- No, right now it is nomination for ordinary members, we are not seeking nominations for Chair yet.

Point of information

Q. Jennifer DeBoer- So when do we appoint a Chair because there is no Chair for the Committee as it stands now?

A. Speaker- You will need to add a second item as a separate motion to the agenda. You could add it after this motion

Q. David Gill- Can a Councillor count as chair of the Committee?

A. Speaker- You have to be on that committee. Any ordinary member or Councillor can be a Chair of a Committee.

Nominees for Councillors: None

Harassment and Discrimination Committee. (1 Ordinary Member)

Nominees: None

Main motion

Amanda Pisiso (Departmental Representative to Cell and Developmental Biology be seated to the Code and Policy Committee.

Matt Gynn be seated to the Services Committee as an Ordinary Member

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Adam Howe

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Adopted Unanimously

Amendment to agenda to add seating of a Chair to the services Committee effective today

MOVER: Jennifer DeBoer

SECONDER:

Nominees: David Gill (Departmental Representative for Library and archival studies) and Matt Gynn (Experimental Medicine)

Speech from Nominees

- David Gill (Library and archival studies department)
 - David said that he attended two Committee meetings which he described as cool, and thought he could become the chair.
- Matt Gynn (Experimental medicine department)
 - Matt said he hopes to carry his experience and ideas gained from his previous University (McGill University) to this position

Election of Chair to the Service Committee

Votes:

BIRT Matt Gynn is Chair of the Services Committee

MOVER: Kaye Hare

SECONDER: Amanda Pisio

Adopted Unanimously

Nathanael Caveney- ordinary member

D. Presentations

1. Title: Draft memorandum of agreement for the GSS Loft in the Nest

Presenters: Krish Maharaj and Gen Cruz

An update on the GSS-AMS Memorandum of Agreement

Gen Cruz

- It is an update on the Loft since July 21st Council discussion.
- The access to the Loft has been opened to graduate students but we do not have an MOU yet.
- The MOU will allow GSS to use the space to its full capacity
- That means GSS can move the advocacy coordinators into its offices,
- Secure key access, change locks and have activities which GSS is already doing but it makes it official
- Gen expressed her gratitude to both Councillors who were able/ not able to participate in the #occupytheloft campaign.
- She considered it a success because there were graduate students who were not in the usual GSS loop who participated and took pictures and videos.
- She said the pictures and videos could be accessed on the hash tag #occupytheloft
- She explained that after the #occupytheloft campaign, the tone of negotiation changed since the last in-camera session.

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- The AMS apologised to both Gen Cruz and Nick McGregor during their meeting for the email that was sent by their VP Admin
- The referred email has to do with the AMS VP Admin referencing the AMS archivist that the GSS has no right to the loft

The results of the AMS and GSS MOU draft

- The AMS drafted a new MOU with us (GSS)
- Present at the meeting were Krish Maharaj, Ava Nasiri and Gen Cruz
- The MOU comes with a long term agreement and a temporary agreement

Krish Maharaj

- There was some disagreement on the use of the seminar room.
- The AMS wanted to use the GSS space as a transition space for one of their clubs because they were renovating their basement.
- The GSS was resistant to this idea was because;
 - o Installing the pottery club could entail significant changes to the space to accommodate the club
 - o Talk of kilns, throwing wheels, and a lot of pottery items.
 - o This could potentially wreck the place and would be difficult to restore
- But after much discussion a number of compromises were reached;
 1. They agreed to extend the term of agreement from five (5) years to seven (7) years.
- The term is 7 years and there is additional potential to re-opt and extend that
 2. If the AMS takes longer than one year to return the space back to us (GSS) in the same condition, the agreement will extend automatically from 7 years to 10 years.
- This means that there is a penalty if they take too long for any reason, GSS gets an automatic benefit of extra three years on the MOU.
- The concern was that it would take too long until we get the space back but if there is a penalty through the length of agreement in the MOU, it is more likely they would want to give it back earlier.
 3. In the event that the AMS ceases to be a representing body for Graduate students there by triggering the termination of the agreement, the UBC head lease with the AMS automatically gets terminated.
- So there is a provision in that lease that allows the University to take back either the entire building or so much of the building as they see fit.
- So if GSS were to succeed, then the university will cancel the lease of the GSS estate with AMS and grant it directly to GSS.
- The university could do that at that time because the GSS is a part of the building and have the right to be there.
- The word emancipation was taken out of the agreement because the word is usually used for freedom of slaves which we do not classify GSS as subordinate to AMS so we objected to it.

Temporary agreement

Why the pottery Club and not the e-sports lounge?

Gen Cruz

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- The GSS was initially unsettling about the idea of having the pottery club instead of an e-sports lounge in the space
- This is because GSS was of the opinion that;
 - o It would require so many fixtures;
 - o The cost will be too great.
 - o It would take longer to restore
- the AMS clarified these issues.
- The AMS has been given a deadline of September 31st 2017 to evacuate the Pottery club.

Krish Maharaj

- The day for GSS to get the space back is October 31st 2017.

Gen Cruz

- The AMS clarified that the kiln will not be built in our space but on the roof top.
- That is the reason why the Pottery club asked if they could use this space because the GSS space is near the rooftop
- The closeness to the rooftop would reduce the potential transportation damage to their artefacts

Excerpts from the Agreement

1. The GSS shall allow the use of Suite 4202D until September 31, 2017 in order to accommodate shortage of space within the Nest during the construction of the old SUB basement.
2. Upon the termination of this agreement and evacuation of the Pottery club the AMS shall entirely restore the space to it's original condition including a professional cleaning of the space and restoration of the original agreed upon layout of furnishings in the space.
 - Meaning the AMS will bear all the cost
 - The GSS hopes to bring our branding to the space even whilst the pottery club is there.
3. The AMS Shall provide priority bookings for alternative space accommodations for any GSS graduate student programming intended for use in suite 4202D for the duration of time that the pottery club is occupying Suite 4202D.
 - This means that there will be no charge for any GSS programing that takes place within the NEST
 - This includes the grand hall as long as it is not a weekly engagement

Timeline (Please see Appendix A)

Gen Cruz

- The timeline starts from now till next year and if not, it automatically extends to 10 years

Krish Maharaj

- That is if they fail to return the place to the GSS in a year's time.

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Discussion / Question

Q. Sneha Balani - September has 30 days but in the presentation there was a date listed for 31st of September

A. Krish Maharaj- Yes you are right, that was a mistake but a not so important one. If you put the wrong day at the end of the calendar month, they would interpret it as the last day of the month.

Q. Yaseen Mottiar – Is the motion / MOU amendable or are we voting on it or what?

A. Krish Maharaj- It is as it is currently

Q. Yaseen Mottiar- So you accept it as you've written it or reject it?

A. Krish Maharaj- Yes, we can't amend it at this point.

Comment: Bradley- it has already gone through AMS Council

Krish Maharaj- Yes that is one of the reasons why we can't just change it at our end

Speaker: just to clarify, the AMS Council did not approve it but the AMS did approve the agreement

Gen Cruz- It went to AMS Council, I received a notification that it did.

Comment: Harry Li- I know that this started last year but it didn't finish. It was a complicated matter so I thank the executives and all who worked on it. It is really hard work and its not been easy. But finally we have the space now and let's motivate our graduate students to utilize it as much as possible.

Q. Marysol Garcia Patino? Are they going to know that they are not able to use the room until a year? - is the information going to be circulated to all students or are you going to wait until the year completes

A. Krish Maharaj- They could use it now. We already have a card access. This is the formalise understanding that we have with AMS.

Comment: Marysol Garcia Patino- My mistake then

Q. David Gill – So are we going to have a debate and discussion about this agreement?

A. Krish Maharaj- Yes, there is going to be a motion for the approval of the agreement and that is when I prefer the debate to happen in camera because there are certain things I'd rather not say in front of everyone.

Q. Jennifer DeBoer- Just my personal thing about the motion

Krish Maharaj- Just save it until the actual debate, I told you this!

Jennifer DeBoer- Calm down!

Speaker- Folks that is un acceptable, an exchange like that will not be tolerated.

Comment: Jennifer DeBoer- I just think that since we are talking about this and you just proposed it, I suggest that we go in camera now and discuss and debate on it and then we vote on it than we go back and forth.

Amendment to the agenda to discuss the motion on the GSS space in the AMS Nest now

MOVER: Jennifer DeBoer

SECONDER: David Gill

Motivation Jennifer DeBoer

- Jennifer expressed that it would be more efficient to address it immediately following the presentation.

Adopted unanimously

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Motion on the loft reads

WHEREAS the AMS is the lessee of the “The Nest”, a building located upon District lot 4805, Group 1, New Westminster District under a head lease with UBC, and

WHEREAS the GSS is beneficially entitled to certain space on the fourth floor of The Nest referred to as the “Premises”, including rooms 4202A, 4202B, 4202C, and 4202D, and

WHEREAS the GSS and AMS have negotiated a memorandum of understanding to establish a framework for the use and enjoyment of the Premises by the GSS covering a minimum term of seven years from the date of execution (“The Loft MOU”), and

WHEREAS the GSS and AMS have negotiated a further memorandum of understanding with respect to the use of room 4202D by the Pottery Club of the AMS at UBC (“The Pottery Club”) from the date of execution of that memorandum of understanding until September 31, 2017 in order to house The Pottery Club during renovations to the basement of the “Old Student Union Building” (“The Pottery MOU”), and

WHEREAS the adoption of both agreements will assist the GSS with respect to its plans to develop a centre for graduate student life at UBC in a location more accessible to its members, therefore

BIRT GSS Council approves the execution of The Loft MOU and The Pottery MOU, as presented to council on this date, by the President and General Manager of the GSS as agents for the GSS.

MOVER: Adam Howe

SECONDER: John Dupuis

Motion to move to an in-camera session excluding the Speaker (also the speaker for AMS Council) and Veronica Knott (Board of director Representative who is not a graduate student)

MOVER: Krish Maharaj

SECONDER: Harry Li

Motivation- Krish Maharaj

- Some comments that may be made might not be best to go pass this room.

Adopted Unanimously

Speaker relinquished Chair to Kaye Hare.

The discussion was taken out of the in-camera session at 7: 43pm

Amendment to the motion to add wording “subject to such typographical and stylistic amendment as need to be made in the opinion of the president, and a change to reflect the GM is signing in his capacity as a witness only, but otherwise as”

MOVER: Krish Maharaj

SECONDER: Logan McDonald

Vote on the matter

27/1/1

Amendment adopted

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BIRT GSS Council approves the execution of The Loft MOU and The Pottery MOU, subject to such typographical and stylistic amendment as need to be made in the opinion of the president, and a change to reflect the GM is signing in his capacity as witness only, but otherwise as presented to council on this date, by the President and General Manager of the GSS as agents for the GSS
Simple majority vote on the main motion

26/0/4

Adopted.

2. **Title:** Thank you for your feedback on the Framework

Presenter: Sneha Balani

Committee: Strategic Planning Ad hoc Meeting

- Sneha mentioned that the Strategic Planning Committee met and reviewed the comments.
- They recognized the need for more meetings.
- She thanked Councillors for accommodating it on the agenda.
- The Committee has a timeline of three months to pass the strategic plan
- There is a shorter version of the strategic plan (4pages)
- The Committee is proposing that the four- page document be posted online for graduate students while the Committee works on the seventeen- page document
- The document was sent to all councillors but GSS had issues with the internet and so councillors did not receive the documents.

Natalie

- The documents can take some time during dinner and go through the document and then the motion on it can be done after dinner.
- Or council can delegate the authority to executives to give the Strategic Planning Committee the go ahead

Sneha

- Lets not wait till October council before we attend to the motion.

Motion to recess for 15min

MOVER: Krish Maharaj

SECONDER: David Gill

Meeting was called back to order at 8:11 pm with 28 members counting quorum

E. Council motions

~~1. GSS Space in the AMS Loft~~

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~~WHEREAS the AMS is the lessee of the “The Nest”, a building located upon District lot 4805, Group 1, New Westminster District under a head lease with UBC, and~~

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~~WHEREAS the GSS and AMS have negotiated a memorandum of understanding to establish a framework for the use and enjoyment of the Premises by the GSS covering a minimum term of seven years from the date of execution (“The Loft MOU”), and~~

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~~WHEREAS the adoption of both agreements will assist the GSS with respect to its plans to develop a centre for graduate student life at UBC in a location more accessible to its members, therefore~~

~~BIRT GSS Council approves the execution of The Loft MOU and The Pottery MOU, as presented to council on this date, by the President and General Manager of the GSS as agents for the GSS.~~

Adhoc motion was done immediately after the recess of

2. BIRT the GSS strikes an Ad-Hoc Committee with the following terms of reference:

The Ad-hoc Committee on Governance and Accountability shall:

- Consult with Executives, Councillors and other individuals within the GSS to determine where gaps currently exist in the governance structure of the organisation and, if deemed appropriate, provide recommendations to the GSS Council for restructuring of the organisation.
- Make use of data from the annual GSS Graduate Student Satisfaction surveys, the recent GSS climate surveys, as well as the final report of the 2010 GSS External Review and the draft of the 2017-2021 GSS Strategic Frame work.
- Explore the possibility of commissioning a professional governance review of the GSS.
- Provide specific recommendations to the Code and Policy Committee on amendments to the GSS Bylaws and Policy Manual
- Work with the Executive Committee, the Code and Policy Committee, the HR Committee, the General Manager and others to develop an up-to- date organisational flowchart and ‘roles and responsibilities’ document which shows the relationships between different bodies of the organisation and outlines the responsibilities of all individuals and committees.
- Work with the Executive Committee to update and improve existing procedures for training of new Executives, Councillors and Committee Chairs.
- Prepare a Code of Conduct for Executives and Councillors, as well as Ordinary Members serving on GSS Committees or who otherwise volunteer with the GSS.

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- Establish timeframes for completion of the goals described in the 2017-2021 GSS Strategic Framework and verify that relevant individuals and committees make steady progress on action items.
- Explore the possibility of forming a GSS Standing Committee on Governance and Accountability.
- Have the following composition: 6 seats for Councillors to be appointed by the GSS Council and 1 seat for the GSS President as an ex-officio member.

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Adam Howe

Motivation

Yaseen Mottiar

- The proposal of a new ADHOC Committee stems from discussions that have been had in a number of different Committees, in circles, and in groups
- Minor amendments were made to the original document that was sent out on the July 21st Council meeting.
- The amendments were based on the feedback got from Council and other feedbacks
- So there is a lot of great ideas as to what the new Committee could and should be doing.
- The terms of reference are long so a lot of that is collected in a separate document and the intention is to pass that on to the new Committee.
- This committee will look at some deep picture eyelevel questions of the organisation that have come up in the last number of years. The idea of our (GSS) governance structure- the fact that Councillors are also the board of directors of the organisation.
- The Committee will be making use of the surveillance sustainer part, the STRAPLAN, the 2010 external review
- Yaseen explains that the 2010 external review is a review of the organisation which suggests some interesting things like the following
 - severing the powers of board of directors from Council,
 - Making speaker position as an elected position,
 - And all kinds of ideas from big to small.
- Another aspect of this Governance Committee is accountability.
- A part of this stems from the discussions that had been had in the Strategic plan
- The Strategic Planning Ad hoc Committee will cease to exist when and if Council approve the Strategic plan.
 - So the idea here is that this Committee (Governance) will sort of take over some those Strategic plan implementation issues

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How to make this a standing Committee.

- The Ad hoc Committee will expire in next year Council.
- There will be six (6) Councillors and one President as ex- officio member.

Discussion and Debate

Q. Shona Robinson- Why Are there no ordinary members in the member list?

A. Yaseen Mottiar- Originally, I suggested ordinary members and I think in discussion with a few people, we kind of came to the realisation that maybe a lot of ordinary members may not have the understanding of the governance structure of the GSS. I would be totally open to any other.

Comment: Shona Robinson- My thought might be that an Ordinary member might be a member to another organisation and that is why they cannot be in the GSS governance Committee

Q. Krish Maharaj- Do you foresee playing kind of a role in the Ad hoc Committee yourself?

A. Yaseen Mottiar- I'm not sure yet

Q. Gen Cruz- Could you expand more on how this Committee will relate with the Executive Oversight Committee or the Executive Oversight Officer? You are talking about accountability especially for Council and Executives so could you distinguish relationship more because they might have overlapping role and function.

A. Yaseen Mottiar Could you point to which part of reference?

Comment: Dante Mendoza- I think the part that overlaps is the completion of the goals of the strategic plan

Q. Gen Cruz- I think there is no specific item but when you talk about accountability of the entire GSS, that role is filled in by the Executive Oversight which holds the Executives accountable. I'm wondering if this would be for Council or the Executives. Just a clarification.

A. Yaseen Mottiar- I don't see a specific point on here that overlaps with the change of reference with the Oversight Committee but if you see one, please point it out. I think the only one that might be up for discussion is about the implementation of the Strategic plan and I don't see that, directly speaking, as part of the Executive Oversight Committee. It is actually, according to the Bylaw section 14, the presidents' responsibility so if anything overlaps into the presidents' own responsibility?

Comment: Bradley Balaton- How I see it is that this new Committee is more for long term accountability where as the Executive Oversight Committee is more for a short term

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overlooking Executives while the Governance will be looking at long term and all of the GSS.

Sneha Balani – For clarification, I was just going to support Yaseen's cap process of the Executive Oversight from what I understand, from the start has been about Executives goals an Oversight Committee that looks at the specific executive roles but not Committees, not Chairs, not other associations that these executives have and so a Committee like this could be an over arching picture and again, on Bradley's point of thought which is correct too, Executive Oversight is year basis where as the Governance and Accountability is going to be in the STRA PLAN for example is five years on the part where and how we would and do in the five years

Comment: Natalie- I just want to thank Yaseen and anyone who has helped him in developing these terms of reference (applause) for his hard work and initiative that this proposed Committee could well address issues in the GSS and considering that the Strategic Ad hoc Committee would soon disappear into thin air, this Committee will be a good idea to help us implement it so thank you to Yaseen and all who provide the feedback.

The GSS Policy Manual stipulates the following for a new ad-hoc committee:

7.4. Ad-Hoc Committees

7.4.1. Ad-Hoc Committees shall be created by ordinary resolution at Council

7.4.2. The recommendation to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee must include a mandate of the proposed Ad-Hoc Committee, duration with an approximate end date, the member composition, and proposed recruitment.

7.4.3. Ad-Hoc Committees are required to follow the same procedures outlined in section 6 of this Policy Manual.

7.4.4. The mandate of Ad-Hoc Committees shall expire at the Annual General Meeting.

Simple majority vote on the motion

28/1/2

Adopted

The Ad Hoc Committee on Governance and Accountability's mandate will expire in the annual general meeting.

2. Omnidirectional Microphone

Whereas GSS Council meeting recordings are too poor quality to use for updating minutes accurately, Whereas the project titled "Omnidirectional Microphone" satisfies the requirements of the CIF, and has been recommended by the House Finance Committee for Council approval, therefore BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$300 from the Capital Improvements Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of an omnidirectional microphone.

MOVER: Shona Robertson

SECONDER: Harry Li

GSS Council Meeting Minute

Thursday, September 15th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | Minute taker: Odo Ansah.

Motivation

Shona Robinson

- The particular microphone is recommendation by Gen Cruz, who has used it in her journalism profession
- As we all know, the minutes have not been sufficient in details and that is because the microphones that was used in recording Council meetings were horrible.
- Gen assures that this recorder is of a better quality.
- The story surrounding how it was purchased before Council will be addressed by Gen Cruz.

Discussion and Debate

Gen Cruz- Explained that the item was needed and so it was taken from the budget line "equipment". So if Council approves it, it will be placed under CIF budget line but if not, it will remain in the equipment budget line.

Q. Yaseen Mottiar- This has happened twice in consecutive Council meetings where items have been purchased prior to Council's approval. So I am going to read this quote from the Policy Manual section 16.4.5.

"Funds may only be removed from the CIF if following steps have been followed:

- (ix) a detailed proposal for a Capital Improvement has been presented to the House/Finance committee and subsequently recommended to Council for consideration;
- (x) the proposal has been presented to Council; and
- (xi) a motion to approve the project has been carried with a special resolution of Council".

I am concerned that we are doing this repeatedly and would like Gen to comment on this practice.

A. Gen Cruz- We felt that we urgently needed a better recording device, if anyone want to see evidence, we would gladly provide it. This was purchased for this Council meeting and we do have a budget line for it. Again if this is a practice that you feel strongly against then you can take the vote and not approve it.

Comment: Krish Maharaj- I think it is already in the expense line item it is possible to use but CIF is a better budget line for it because it freezes up funds for other purposes and there is nothing wrong with it. It is a pretty common practice to retroactively pass forward motions to ratify contracts for a number of purposes. If we should justify it, this is obviously a useful thing, we needed better technology for accurate minutes.

A. Shona: If that didn't address the question completely, I would refer you to a clause that says 'you can only use CIF if its not budgeted for in the regular budget' and there is in fact a budget line but it is not budgeted for because we didn't plan for it and so that is the way we are reading that particular clause and that's just the way we interpret it. That said, at the last HF meeting there was a warning issue from the Committee about trying to keep these things a bit more timely so we don't have to get into this.

GSS Council Meeting Minute

Thursday, September 15th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | Minute taker: Odo Ansah.

Comment: Yaseen- I just want to clarify that the microphones have my full support but it is the process that I disagree with. If we need to use CIF in future we need to do this in the right order

BIRT GSS Council approves up to \$300 from the Capital Improvements Fund (budget line 10-785) for the purchase of an omnidirectional microphone

26//0/1

Adopted

3. WHEREAS the Graduate Student Society (GSS) Bylaws state that “The Society shall have a Strategic Framework approved by Council by a Special Resolution; the Framework establishes the priorities and direction of the Society” (Section 14.1), and

WHEREAS the GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee has prepared a draft of the GSS Strategic Framework, and provided to Council in its entirety (“*GSS Strategic Framework: 2017-2021*”) as well as in summary form (“*Overview of the GSS Strategic Framework*”), and

WHEREAS the GSS Strategic Planning *ad hoc* Committee has sought feedback from GSS committees and GSS Councillors,

WHEREAS feedback from the GSS membership is vital to determine the priorities and directions desired by GSS constituents, and

BIRT the GSS Council ratifies the September 15th, 2016 version of “*Overview of the GSS Strategic Framework*” as a draft to be published on the GSS website and made available to graduate students in order to solicit comments and feedback on the Strategic Framework;

BIFRT the GSS Council ratifies the September 15th, 2016 version of the complete “*GSS Strategic Framework: 2017-2021*” document as a draft, to be made available through access to the Overview document, so that graduate students may provide feedback on specific proposed Actions within the draft Strategic Framework.

MOVER: Natalie Marshall

SECONDER: Adam Howe

Motivation - Natalie Marshall

Natalie explained the rational for why the motion needs to be approved as follows;

- The draft of the strategic framework was circulated to all Councillors for feedback.
- At the last council meeting the Committee asked how they should proceed in terms of consultation and there was a general feedback on the idea of posting a copy of the draft Strategic framework on the GSS website
- The idea is so that the constituents of the GSS would be able to provide some feedback on that document.
- Strategic Planning Committee has incorporated most of the took most of the suggestions from the feedback into the new documents.

GSS Council Meeting Minute

Thursday, September 15th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | Minute taker: Odo Ansah.

- There is an abbreviated version of the document summarized into a four- page- document.
- The idea is to give the four-page document to Gen Cruz (GSS president) to post on the website so that our constituents can provide us with feedback on the draft
- This is an important step in building a strategic plan to represent about a thousand graduate students in UBC.
- In order to get the important feedback from the constituents, the Strategic Planning Committee suggests that the draft be ratified by Council acknowledging that it is simply a draft so that it could be posted on the website
- Given that Councillors have not had time to read the document due to the IT struggle, the Strategic Committee would amend and remove the second where as clause out of the motion.
- Also open for discussion would be alternative ways to move forward.
- Natalie ended by giving the option of setting another deadline within next week if Councillors felt they have not had their due diligence in reading the document properly. Motion to amend to remove entirely, the second BIRT clause.

MOVER: Yaseen Mottiar

SECONDER: Gen Cruz

Debate and discussion

Q. Kaye Hare- I'd like to find out a little bit more on how you acted on feedback that people provided to you. What it was is that you consulted the Chairs and we provided feedback, and I can speak for myself, looking at my section, I can see that my feedback is not incorporated into the document as three points that I disagreed with are still there, and so I would like a little bit more information on your decisions on how you acted on the feedback provided.

A. Sneha Balani- Like I said during my presentation, all of your comments were about specific action plans but in terms of you not being comfortable to vote, you could vote out.

Comment: Kaye Hare- I think that I for one most certainly need more time to look at it. On a first scan, I have some questions on the content. I do certainly agree that there is a need to get this out to our Constituents. I recommend that we push this back to at least a week to give full chance for us to go through it.

Amendment to strike the second BIRT clause

Adopted Unanimously

Discussion and Debate

Q. Shona Robinson- Similar to the point that was just made, HF Committee sent some feedback which I feel would probably be reflecting in here if they were reflecting at all. It is not to say that Strategic Planning Committee did not have a good reason for not including that but we didn't get any feedback on why they were not included. I would still vote for this tonight because I am confident that we could still have that dialogue with this up on the website. but I would like feedback on why they were not included

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Thursday, September 15th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | Minute taker: Odo Ansah.

Point of information

Shona Robinson- Did anybody provide a feedback that they do see reflected on the document? Has the second round of feedback incorporated in this document?

A. Sneha Balani- So most of the feedback we received was on specific actions, and that is the reason why we decided not to go ahead with the action document which is 18 pages. None of the feedback was specifically on any of the goals and just the main headings. So all of them are portfolio action that we just thought we could do a lot of work on.

Q. David Gill- will the 18 document be put online? Or the 4 pager?

A. Sneha Balani- 4 pages are what we are asking right now.

Comment: Natalie Marshall gave the following explanation to shed more light on what had been said already;

- In terms of incorporating the feedback, do not feel that we are not taking the feedback seriously.
- Part of what has been done to change the spring work already is by adding a narrative to the first page which provides context and introduction on the structure that we are using
- This includes the themes that we are addressing, the goals we recommend under each and we also want to give credit on the valuable feedback.
- Some of the points that were recommended are on their way. And so we want to acknowledge that we are not starting from the scratch.
- We are building upon current work of the GSS.
- The 4-page document (See Appendix B), is just headers- the broad goals that we would like to see something done on in the next five years.
- Not only that, but this is unaltered, so a lot of the feedback that we got as Sneha explained, has been on specific items that we propose addressing those goals which we really want your feedback on.
- However, that is more for discussion between Committees and Councillors and the Strategic Planning Committee.
- The Strategic Planning Committee is very open to feedback and hopes to amend those things that aren't scheduled.

Comment: Kaye Hare- I really do appreciate all the work that you've been doing on this. I recognized that this has been an ongoing process. But I disagree on characterization of people's feedback as being on the action points alone. I know what I said, I have it here and it is not limited to the action points. What's more, is that I do not think it is advisable to rush council on these type of documents. The majority of people in this room are well aware of several examples in the past year, where attempts to rush documents have been highly problematic for council. We have to have one standard. I strongly advise that next time documents be brought earlier to council.

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Thursday, September 15th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | Minute taker: Odo Ansah.

Q. Gen Cruz- If feedback is added from members on the headers, are you still open to change it? Are you still entertaining questions on the over all strap plan?

A. Sneha Balani-Yes everything is open right now

Q. Amanda Pisis: What type of feedback are you expecting to get because most of the headers sound like excellent goals?

So are you asking if there are goals that we missed? Because this is going out to the entire graduate student population and they are going to be aware of this whole process so is this going on the website with a bit of an explanation?

A. Natalie Marshall- Ultimately this will be posted by Gen and the intent will be that this entire document will be posted online. In terms of what type of feedback, we expect I have no idea but I Hope to find things that are missing that are important to graduate students that has not been represented in the strategic frame work that the GSS can addressed. We may get feedback like” this section is important to me” or “in my department, we’ve done it this way” Sneha do have anything to add?

Comment: Sneha Balani- That is pretty much that. the idea was when this came up, it came up from a lot of sources. We’ve been through so many versions that at times we miss very important points or we put too much attend on other things. The idea to have available to students is so that can get involved in building it.

Comment: Amanda Pisis- I think it will be more successful if you give people an idea of what you are looking for.

Q. Shona Robinson- does the Committee have any concerns that by posting this document, people might not read the full document later because they have already read the draft before. From my experience when somebody gives me an abbreviated document to read, I read and when they give me a longer version I am probably not going to read that unless I invested in it.

A. Natalie Marshall- We have not decided yet on what consultation we are going to use after this. I think we definitely need to consult our constituents and that’s what this process is but we have not discussed sending them the 20-page document.

The original idea was to include a link for students who are interested in the strategic plan to incorporate the actions, but that is what we still need to do

A. Sneha Balani- I do not want to disregard anyone’s contribution and comments made. Will people be comfortable if we still pass this motion but only post something online a week from today (22nd September, 2016) after appropriate adjustment are made instead of waiting for an entire month?

Speaker- we could amend the motion

Q. David Gill- in the strategic plan, the 18-page document, do you have anything that talks about creating and fostering a relationship with the Musqueam 1st nations?

A. Natalie Marshall- We currently do not but that is an excellent piece of example of feedback and we appreciate that. That’s probably officially on Sneha’s laptop right now and we will add that to the list of feedback

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Comment: Gen Cruz- I am very much willing to have this online but I just want to know whether the headers will be appropriate for everyone. If we could have a time frame where we can send the documents around and we can review it as Sneha suggested, a week. And then if no one comments against it, I will just post it. Just to give people more flexibility.

Vote on Motion

18/1/11

Adopted

Amendment to open nominations on the seatings for Councillors and ordinary members on House Finance Committee

MOVER: Shona Robinson

SECONDER: Yaseen Mottiar

Nomination for Ordinary members: Nathanael C

BIRT Nathanael C be seated to House Finance Committee as an ordinary member

MOVER: Shona Robinson

SECONDER: Logan McDonald

Adopted Unanimously

5. Executive Remarks

(3 minutes)

- President – Gen Cruz
 - There will be a meeting on membership fees increase at 10am-11:00 am tomorrow.,
 - The meeting could be moved to a week's time if members feel they do not have enough time to prepare for it.
 - Notification of this meeting was sent to Councillors but the disruptions in the IT upgrade prevented recipients from receiving it.

Update on GU15.

- GSS attended the meeting on the GU15 with the intention of potentially pulling out because the purpose of it was not very clear from the many meetings we have been having as compared to CASA and ABCS.
- UBC and University of Waterloo wanted to pull out of the event.
- Instead, we are staying because the purpose of GU 15 has been clarified.
- A presentation may be made during the October council on the new direction of the GU15 - that we will be a research body to assist in CASA and CFS to allow members who are not in CASA to join in the process of advocating in the federal government.
- GSS will attend the GU15. Note that the event is no longer GU15 because it has opened its membership to more graduate schools.

Executive meeting

GSS Council Meeting Minute

Thursday, September 15th, 2016 | GSS Ballroom | 5:30 pm | Minute taker: Odo Ansah.

- The executives have established weekly executive meetings
- It will be on every Thursday at 11:00 am.
- This is an opportunity for Councillors to discuss important issues with the executives
- The agenda for the executive meeting will be sent out every Wednesdays by 5:00 pm
- Finally, Councillors are reminded the final agenda for Council meeting is sent on the Tuesday of the week of the Council meeting at 5:00 pm
- Councillors are encouraged to send in items earlier than the set timeline.
- Vice-President University & Academic Affairs – Mahshid Ghaffartehrani
 - She sent her gratitude to all Councillors for all the awesome work done in GSS in her absence.

Report

- The last two weeks has been about transitioning
- The Academic and External Committee is going to revive as earlier mentioned
- This is because there are a lot of important items coming up.
- The most important one is the international tuition fee increase that is coming up in early October.

Items in progress

- With the help of the General Manager (Mark Wellington) and Shalini (former interim VP University & Academic Affairs) the operational manual for advocacies and communication logs has been prepared and presented to the new advocates.
- The procedure of fairness workshop was held on Tuesday. So the advocates have officially started working.
- There is a new professional master of PMBA and it is going to reprise the existing part time MBA degree.
- There is another movement called Sexual Violence in Asian Communities on Campus and Beyond committee. It is formed to run projects on getting information on, Sexual Violence in Asian Communities on Campus. Their first project is held on March 18, 2016, 12-1pm. Lillooet Room (301), Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC
- Vice-President External Relations – Nicholas McGregor

Key highlights

- We had some meetings with Santa Ono (President and Vice Chancellor, UBC) on August 29th.
 - Take every opportunity you get to go and interact with him

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- He seems to be a big fun of students which is nice, and graduate students specifically after having been one himself a couple of times.
- There was a meeting with Andrew Wilkinson (minister of education). Issues addressed are at follows:
 - Issues centering around graduate students funding;
 - Housing availability;
 - Graduate scholarships in BC and also at provincial level;
 - Provincial loans in BC and the available funding at UBC specifically.
- Also, there was a meeting with Adrian Geiger (head of government relations for UBC)
- One of the issues that was addressed was on funding the full cost of research for the federal government which was part of pre CASA budget submission.
 - A document was sent with the agenda and one of them was CASA's pre budget submission English and French (see Appendix C).
 - The second was a report on CASA's policy and strategy which was in the end of July.
 - Those documents reflect the financial commitment of CASA is doing this year and it is what we presented to the treasury board- the ministry of Treasury.

Upcoming

- There is innovation submission and that's something we are just finishing up now.
- This is all a part of Navdeep Bains' (ISED) portfolio. UBC will also be putting in a submission.
- The UBC submission centers around how to better support faculty and academic research which I don't think ISED are super excited about.
- Lastly, we have recently launched a new campaign centering around the availability of housing to post secondary institutions around BC.
- An email was sent to Councillors with a briefing on the housing issue and asking Councillors to come out next week for a box painting exercise towards the campaign.
- Nick invited Councillors to participate in the boxes painting (miniature houses for the housing campaign) exercise.
- There is a link to a website called whereisthehousing.ca. Please go on there and sign the petition and share with some friends to help solve some of the housing problems in the lower mainland.
- Vice-President Students – Jennifer DeBoer
 - Orientation was successful and the follow is a cap on it;
 - It started with a pancake breakfast where everybody had an amazing time.

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- Over 300 students were served pan cakes
- There was a BBQ were Santa Ono (President and Vice Chancellor, UBC) came and interacted with several graduate students.
- There is a picture of him (Santa Ono) grilling with students from Cincinnati (his former Students) in His office and the target is to replace that with a picture of him grilling with the UBC GSS students.
- There were 150 last day checks for campus tours
- MOA tours sold out,
- About 160 people attended the boat cruise.
- The chief hike sold out,
- 40 people showed up for the sundae event and that was the even that was least attended.
- Very surprisingly we had 200 people RSVP for speed friending, it was actually held in the ball room
- The staff was really helpful.
- Over 80 people attended the craft untapped
- The whale watching event sold out.

Upcoming Events

- The night market event, Yoga, Zumba, speed friending, another craft untapped- Koerners will host it to some extent. They are going to have some people come in to properly teach us about some beer.
- There will be a singer/ song writer event on September 30th at the Thea's lounge so if anyone knows any singer and song writer that will be awesome.
- The plan is to make this singer/song writer event a monthly event.
- Finally, there were some papers with information on the potential Councillor retreat
- The paper contains potential venue options for the retreat. The five options were arrived by the help of the staff.
- Councillors are encouraged to send the papers back with their feedback
- Financial and Executive Oversight Officer – Dante Mendoza
 - Dante explained that his focus has been on transitioning and taking over from Xiao lie Deng (former Financial and Executive Oversight Officer).
 - There is a lot of operational things that comes with the position.
 - Most relevant item in general is that the annual audit is almost completed and a report on that will be given in the next Council meeting after meeting the firm that performed this task.

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- The next priority is the Executive and Oversight Committee
 - The Committee has not been working because the members do not meet the minimum quorum.

6. Committee Reports

(3 minutes)

- Academic & External Affairs Committee – Dan Kehila
 - The Committee will get inputs from the VP, University and Academic Affairs (Mahshid Gharffartehrani) and VP, External relations (Nick McGregor).
 - Mahshid will provide information about emergency fund.
 - Nick will provide information about the ABCS campus situation and the committee will initiate discussion about them and generate actions
- Code and Policy Committee – Krish Maharaj
 - A form is being prepared to be put Online. Getting online form up so people could request a draft of the policy for a better record on the instructions people have given us. On that, if you have any thoughts or want something to be changed you are welcome to do so
- Executive Oversight Committee – Dante Mendoza
 - There are issues with getting quorum and the committee is trying to get more people on board
- House Finance Committee – Shona Robinson;
 - The committee had a sitting on the CIF motion.
 - The committee had its first glimpse of thematic Fiscal year.
 - There are other philosophical discussions that the committee had last meeting which may come to Council a little bit later.
- Human Resources Committee – Kaye Hare
 - The committee numbers are so low so last month's meeting could not continue as scheduled because quorum was not met.
 - The committee is working on the organisational roles and responsibilities documents and updating policies
- Services Committee – Jennifer DeBoer
 - Some small changes have been made on event fund funding.
 - Based on what the Committee reports, there are some Affiliate Organization (AO)'s who have applied for the event fund for very similar repetitive events
 - The committee is of the opinion that the true intent of the event fund is not been met.

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- In view of that, the committee is preparing to promote the event fund and why it exists.
 - Because there is a limited funding, the committee is putting a limit on the amount that any AO can use per term.
 - It will be based on the number of graduate students the AO has and it cuts out at about \$500 per term
- Elections Committee – Dan Kehila;
 - Not working any more
- Strategic Planning – Sneha Balani
 - Feedback has been received from the various Committees. The action plan for now is to have meeting next week, put the four-page document online and keep working on the 17, 18-page.
- Harassment and Discrimination – Katerina Othonos.
 - The Committee has been busy working on the survey and getting feedbacks.
 - There has been a meeting with the group that will take the survey and help distribute it to students.
 - Things are on track for the survey to be displayed in October and November. You can find us on mygradstory.com
- ~~Ad Hoc committee on sexual assault policy~~ – Gen Cruz
 - The Committee initially had September 30th to submit a policy update. But now its been extended to October 29th

Natalie Marshall-

- Councillors should send feedback on this issue to Gen Cruz and Natalie Marshall

Gen Cruz

- The Committee is in need of more people to work on it.

(4 Representative Reports

(3 minutes)

- AMS Council – Bradley Balaton
 - last meeting was yesterday. AMS is undergoing their governance change. In addition, I think the VP external talked about housing crises and I think that it will be good for our executives to also collaborate with them on that.
- Graduate Council – Natalie Marshall
 - At the next council meeting, there will be an election for new graduate council representatives.

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- Conversations and discussion in the graduate council centres around what standards our supervisors maintain

- Senate – Miranda Huron and Jason Speidel

Miranda

- Nominations are being collected for the seating members for the search committee for provost, Vice President Academics, and Vice President research and international mental health com.
- Scholarships committee has had over \$200, 000 scholarships for Musqueam students. Sexual assault policy.

- BOG – Veronica Knott and Aaron Bailey; -

Veronica Knott

- She mentioned that the first meeting for the academic year will be next week Wednesday. She talked about housing action plan, Governance committee- the plan to hire an external governance consultant, and Reviewing policy 93

A. Question Period

Q. Yaseen Mottiar- I have a question and it is for anyone on the Executive Committee. On the GSS Commissioners program, few times I asked about it and the answer I get is that we assure that we will evaluate it and come back to council for a discussion. So we need someone to give an update to council.

A. Gen Cruz - I am so sorry it wasn't in my report. We evaluated the commissioners program last week. We spent a whole week evaluating whether or not there was any need for new roles. We've decided to stay on current list of Commissioners. Is there an objection from Council to opening this program up? Because we are already at the stand point that there are some commissioners who weren't been utilized yet. For example, Shalini (Interim VP Academic and External), gave us a good perspective having her on board to see what her feedback was on the programs for Commissioners. We realised there is the need to have more Commissioners on Board

B. 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 2017:

- **Chemical Biology Discussion Group**

MOVER: Logan McDonald

SECONDER: Amanda Pisio

Discussion and Debate

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Q. Kaye Hare- Can I just know a little bit more about this organisations? Are they different and do they also have a graduate association and are their association also funded by us? And just a little more on what this discussion group is

A. Jennifer DeBoer- it is intended to be an interdisciplinary discussion group and they are into the sciences. As of today and yesterday they have 109 members to meet on a regular basis to discuss scientific research.

Vote on the Motion

24/1/2

Passed

C. Other Business and Notice of Motions

- **Discussion Period**
 - **First Nations House of Learning Discussion**

Gen Cruz:

- This is brought on the floor so there would be the discussion on how or whether or not GSS want to enhance engagement with the UBC long house
- This is because there are many opportunities for GSS to be more involved in the larger conversation happening in the country.
- If Councillors are not comfortable talking about it, kindly fill out the form given
- We have started speaking with the UBC longhouse
- This started when Amber Shilling gave the executives a four-hour lecture on what issues Indigenous students' face on campus, what challenges they have, and how the GSS can be of help to them.

Discussion and Debate

Q. David Gill- So the First Nations Long House is the building itself, whereas the administrative unit is actually the First Nations House of Learning. Just for clarification.

A. Gen Cruz: My apologies for that, we are referring to the First Nations' House of Learning

Comment: Gen Cruz- Just a closing this is a discussion; would you support an acknowledgement in the beginning of every Council meeting, would you be open to support the treaty of reconciliation, and would you support having a GSS lunch for GSS Councillors at the Long House.

Q. David Gill: What do you mean by acknowledgement, do you mean by acknowledging that we are seated on the ancestral territory of the Musqueam First Nations?

A. Gen Cruz- Yes, so we will have elder come here four the first initial meeting

Q. Miranda - Do you mean by the first meeting

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A. Speaker- so at meetings in Okanagan we acknowledge the First Nations at the beginning of the meeting but it has not been the practice in this campus. But that is a great opportunity to have an Elder come in and I always learn new things in terms of how to acknowledge where we are, where we live,

Q. David Gill- So do you mean at the first meeting, at every meeting?

A. Gen Cruz- We have not agreed on anything yet and that is what we are trying to figure out. it is like what do you envision that the GSS could be doing. So I do not have a set plan and that is why we need the feedback on the questionnaire

Comment: Miranda- I want to stress that when it comes to the acknowledgment of the land it is not something negotiable. This land was a Musqueam land and people come and took it knowing clearly that it is a Musqueam land. So for us to not acknowledge that we are on Musqueam land, we are at the good nature of Musqueam territory, it's significantly disconcerting. I don't think it's a whether or not we acknowledge it, but it should be how we want to acknowledge it.

C. Notices

D. Submissions

N. Next Meeting

Thursday, October 20th, 2016

O. Adjournment

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 pm.

MOVER:

SECONDER: