

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30 pm

## A. Attendance

1. **Present:** Alyssa Kirlin, Arezoo Mehrizi, Atefeh Mohammad Samani, Bradley Balaton, Christina Wiesmann, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Heather Mackay, Jasleen Grewal, John Dupuis, Joella Allen (Proxy for Lisa Zhu), Katerina Othornos, Krish Maharaj, Mackenzie Lockhart, Nathaniel Lim, Namrata Jain, Nandinee Haq, Nirma Khatri Vadlamudi, Peter Musser, Sarah Jackson, Sebastien Rettie, Souvik Ray, Shona Robinson, Taran Dhillon, Teilhard Paradela, Zeynab Nosrati
2. **Regrets:** Addyson Frattura, Amanda Pisio, Arjun Banghela, Balsher Singh Sidhu, Lisa Zhu, Natalie Marshall, Zoe Lam
3. **Absent:** Abhishek Kar, Afifa Mahboob, Aneet Bains, Anna Vozna, Anna Ringsred, Claire Gregoire, Emma Watson, Francisco Gallegos, Han Fei, James Lawson, Jeanie Malone, Jun Sian Lee, Kelsey Everard, Keskine Owusu Poku, Kevin Doering, Michael Wiebe, Mingzhe Liu, Natasha Little, Omar Alomeir, Pablo Silva, Rachele Benjamin, Resha Sabti, Sara Vazirian,
4. **Quorum:** 20 Councillors

## B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:32 pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOVER:** Bradley B.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

*For (12): Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Katerina Othornos, Sebastien Rettie, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu*

Motion passed

## C. Introductions

## D. Approval of Minutes

BIRT the following minutes be approved as presented.

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
  - a. *July 2017*

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## 2. Committee minutes for approval:

- a. *Harassment and Discrimination Committee: July 17, 2017*
- b. *House Finance Committee: June 7, 2017; June 28, 2017; July 10, 2017*
- c. *Services Committee: July 27, 2017*

**MOVER:** Nathaniel L.

**SECONDER:** Krish M.

*For (20): Bradley Balaton, John Dupuis, Jasleen Grewal, Nandinee Haq, Sarah Jackson, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Souvik Ray, Sebastien Rettie, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu*

*Abstained (1): Emily Murphy*

Motion passed.

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*... Next page: Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society*

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## E. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society: Presentations & Motions

*Vision: The GSS continually strives to improve its efficiency, transparency, accountability, and communication in order to better fulfill its Mission.*

### 1. Matters to Note

a. See final section for written updates from:  
updates at the bottom of the agenda\*

i. President

ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer

iii. Executive Oversight Committee

iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc  
Committee

v. House Finance Committee

vi. Code & Policy Committee

vii. Human Resources Committee

viii. AMS Council

ix. Elections Committee

x. GSS/AMS REFERENDUM AD HOC  
COMMITTEE

b. Questions?

### 2. Matters for Decision

#### a. **Seatings**

i. New Councillors

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

\_\_\_\_\_ to be seated as Departmental Representative for \_\_\_\_\_.

MOVER: \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDER: \_\_\_\_\_ RESULT: no councillors,  
passing motion

ii. Committee Seatings

*All GSS Councillors are expected to sit on at least one committee.*

Committees	Meeting Times
ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE The Academic and External Committee endeavours to promote the interests of graduate students within the University community and the society at large. The committee addresses academic matters, financial concerns and the political needs	

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of graduate students.	
<p><b>CODE AND POLICY COMMITTEE</b> The Code and Policy Committee is responsible for reviewing the GSS Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Manual. It collaborates with all other GSS committees, departments, and council to keep the bylaws and policies current. Up-to-date bylaws and policies reflect the will of the society and help the GSS run effectively. The Committee has just finished conducting a major revision of the Society bylaws, and are now in the process of updating the policy manual.</p>	
<p><b>ELECTIONS COMMITTEE</b> The Elections Committee is accountable for conducting annual Society elections.</p>	
<p><b>EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE</b> The Executive Oversight Committee is responsible for providing constructive performance review of elected GSS executive members, and for facilitating resolution of concerns about the functioning of the elected executive.</p>	Currently no meetings scheduled
<p><b>GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The Governance &amp; Accountability ad hoc Committee ensures that the GSS as an organization is as effective as possible by reviewing the GSS governance structure, and helps the Society support UBC grad students by creating accountability to the vision and goals within the GSS Strategic Plan. This year, our main goals are (1) to provide recommendations to restructure the GSS as an organization, and (2) to help all GSS committees create and accomplish goals aligned with the Strategic Plan.</p>	Every 2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:00–7:30pm
<p><b>GSS/AMS REFERENDUM AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee conducts a needs assessment on the AMS services that graduate students currently use, drafts proposals for how to proceed as a Society, and prepares for a related 2018 referendum.</p>	Regular meeting time TBD.
<p><b>HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The Harassment and Discrimination ad hoc committee has been struck to address the issue of harassment and discrimination which covers all aspects of graduate student life at UBC, including work as a Teaching Assistants, student-supervisor relationships, and peer-to-peer interactions, etc. The committee conducts research about student experiences not only across Canada, but also worldwide. The findings will be used to develop a code of conduct.</p>	First Wednesday of each month, 3–8pm (we have long working meetings at the moment)
<p><b>HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> The House Finance Committee works to ensure the financial stability and</p>	Every second Wednesday,

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accountability of all Society operations. It is accountable for organizing the annual audit, preparing and monitoring the budget, and the creation of the annual business plan. In addition to all matters financial, the House Finance Committee is also responsible for overseeing the use of the physical facilities and equipment of the Graduate Student Centre, dealing with complaints and suggestions, and making recommendations to Council regarding the House and Rules, and the Venue Rental Policy.	5pm but this will probably move in September with the new FEO
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b> The Human Resources Committee evaluates and reviews all coordinators and student staff, and provides regular reviews for the employee handbook of the Society. It is their responsibility to ensure all staffing needs are met.	Every Second Monday 5:30 PM
<b>SERVICES COMMITTEE</b> The Services Committee aims to provide diverse services to the UBC graduate student community through direct, face-to-face communication and interaction. Its main function is to plan programming and events that enhance the campus and community experience of UBC graduate students and their families.	Summer: every second Thursday at 5:30pm

BIRT the following 5s be approved:

[Yahya Mohammadzadeh](#) to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

[Yahya Mohammadzadeh](#) as Chair of the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

[Peter Musser](#) to the Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor. (4 councillors needed).

[Nathaniel Lim](#) as Chair of the Code and Policy Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Elections Committee as an Ordinary Member. (3 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Elections Committee as a Councillor. (5 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Executive Oversight Committee as a Councillor. (0

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needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

Nathaniel Lim to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

David Gill, Elham Abooei, Bradley Balaton, Jasleen Grewal to the GSS representative to the AMS caucus. (4 needed)

David Gill, Elham Abooei to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

Jasleen Grewal to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as a AMS Caucus Representative Councillor. (1 5 needed).

David Sasse to the House Finance Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

Souvik Ray, Peter Musser, Sebastien Rettie to the Human Resources Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Services Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

Bradley B: We don't need councillors; amend to change Councillor to only 1 needed "AMS Caucus Representative".

**MOVER:** Katerina O.

**SECONDER:** Alyssa K.

*For (17): Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Sarah Jackson, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Mackenzie Lockhart, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Teilhard Paradela, Souvik Ray, Shona Robinson*

Main motion passed

**b. Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

- i. *Group responsible:* Hanna Murray, VP External Relations & CASA Chair

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- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* What CASA is and what it has been doing.
- iv. *Proposed objective:* Updating the GSS Council about CASA meeting and its future goals.
- v. *Relevant materials:* None at this time.

## Presentation:

### **Presenter:**

#### **What is CASA?**

- 22 yrs old
- Collective of student unions and associations that represent members' interests to the federal gov.
- Represents undergrads, graduates, and college associations
- Promotes: affordable, innovative post-sec education

#### **Federal Role in PSE**

- Global affairs esp. international students
- Finances
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada: Post-Secondary Student Support Program
- Health Canada: Mental Health (on-reserve ed)

#### **Student Aid:**

- We partner with diff organizations throughout the country that impact post-sec ed and fundings
- A lot of prevalence with international students and graduate students
- We engage with federal gov. on PSE issues

#### **Advocacy at CASA**

- A lot of attention put into Advocacy Week in November-- we participate in meetings throughout AW



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- We have meetings with senators and according to lobby monitor we were one of the largest advocacy organizations for that quarter
- We engage with the media: Michael McDonald is our current executive director
- We participate in a lot of research

**Current Priority:** Financial barriers, specifically for this year to expand grants to grad students (Canada Student Grants). We want to provide [graduate students] the same access [as undergraduates].

**International Students:** We found a crossover in our research with international students and grad students. We want to make sure they're given the same rights as domestic students.

**Indigenous Education:** We don't have an Indigenous institution representative due to financial barriers and a small population. CASA priority with Indigenous ed: making sure our policies incorporate Indigenous perspective through consultation.

**Fundamental Research:** We have seen investments through the Liberal gov. We're working towards finding ways for students to be more prepared. We're trying to make funding a lot more equitable.

**Copyright:** We're looking to collaborate with other stakeholders to make sure education exemptions are preserved.

Motion for a ten minute extension.

**MOVER:** Mackenzie L.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

Motion passed.

Presentation con't:

### **Priorities/ Areas of Interest:**

- Student Aid ie Health wellness
- Indigenous students

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- Financial barriers
- Educational materials
- International students

(If you are interested in participating in our committee, we welcome you, our meetings are open and we will circulate materials to you.)

**Developing Solutions:** We write policies, and we go through a process: it starts with research, we create a paper, consult with stakeholders, and then we create a policy.

1 success I am most proud of is getting the federal gov. to invest \$90mil in budget 2017 for Indigenous Education Funding.

## Questions:

**Peter:** Are you talking to libraries as partners re: copyright business?

**Presenter:** Yes. We have taken recommendations from libraries and book stores. It varies from institution, but librarians are very supportive.

**Alyssa:** RE ongoing papers for Oct 2017 on student mental health-- what focus do you have specifically for graduate students' health?

**Presenter:** What we're finding frustrating is the divvying of funding varies from province to prov. There is great work coming from the University of Montreal grad council, and they undertook a study that provided a report on the specific barriers that grad students face in the realm of mental health, and how those things are often compounded by their experiences being specifically grad students. I've also been talking to Think Grad-- this is one of their focuses on producing a white paper. We represent different types of post secondary, but each of those experiences are nuanced; each paper will be sectioned.

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**Krish:** RE inequity in CIHR-- what do u mean by inequity?

**Presenter:** Talking dollar specifically, tri-council agencies-- the funding for NSERC is 1.12bil, SSHRC is 1.03bil, and CIHR gets 0.35bil. So there is quite a staggering inequity of funding, also accessibility for undergrad research is quite hoarded. NSERC is currently the only faculty that provides undergraduate funding for research projects and only specifically for the engineering faculties. SSHRC and CIHR don't have any of those opportunities and it disadvantages primarily undergrad institutions.

**Shona:** To elaborate on Krish: the numbers are quite different-- does that mean they're inequitable? How does that mirror the amount of students in these jobs?

**Presenter:** It comes down to indirect costs of research. With NSERC and SSHRC, often times you need a lab, and there hasn't been a focus on health related research within the academic setting because that funding comes from health funding. They wait until someone from a, ex. hospital, and they collaborate with them. Even the funding pool itself hasn't been streamlined.

**Shona:** How are you striving to make it more equitable? And... the answer is it's really complicated?

**Presenter:** I am not an expert. Based on what I have seen, it depends on institution that you're researching from or partnering with, indirect costs, etc. We're also trying to make sure grad student research is equitably valued based on mandate or independently driven. Those are some factors... I can follow up and send you a response.

**c. Matter #2 Presentation/Topic Title:**

**i. *Group responsible:* Vasilii Triandafilidi**

**ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes**

**iii. *Presentation description:* Innovation OnBoard program**

**iv. *Proposed objective:* This entrepreneurship initiative is a 6-month program filled with entrepreneurship seminars, workshops and a Dragon's Den-styled competition. It would likely have a great value for graduate students.**

**v. *Relevant materials:* None at this time.**

## Presentation:

**Presenter:** Who wants to start a company or make a technological breakthrough through entrepreneurship? [Creating technological innovations] require research, commitment, capital, and our certain program is meant to help you.

- 6 month program
- Includes entrepreneur seminars, mentorship opportunities, and workshops
- We are focusing on technological innovation
- Themes: 1) Food, 2) Health Care, 3) Environment and Energy

**Team Social:** Can apply as teams or individuals. We will organize social events where we'll partner up two individuals so they can share experiences and create a team. Then we partner teams with mentors: 1) An entrepreneur 2) Expert in the profession

**Workshops:** on intellectual properties, competitive intelligence, etc

**Idea Fair:** All teams will present their ideas in a big room, and all visitors will be given monopoly money to invest in the startups they like. Top 5 teams qualify for the next round.

Next round (like Dragons' Den show): You present your idea to successful entrepreneurs, and they will evaluate from their professional POV. If you win there are lots of prizes: (1st place) \$5k, (2nd) \$3k, (3rd) \$2k. Top teams get into Lean LaunchPad.

E-mail [contact@innovationonboard.ca](mailto:contact@innovationonboard.ca)

## Questions:

**Yahya:** (1) Those within the realm of tech companies are often restricted to making apps. Is there any plan to assist other types of entrepreneurs, or just focused on app programming?

**Presenter:** Agreed. We're ready to provide a lot of support. We are starting from applied sciences, and providing IP workshops, rapid prototyping. You can test your technology, and not just as

apps.

**Yahya:** (2) It seems unfeasible to do certain types of engineering research.

**Presenter:** We are a platform to Jumpstart. Most ideas will have certain things nucleated eg. through Ph.D research or engineering design team. After this program you will be paired up with those who have bigger amounts of money. They will provide you with access to bigger values of capital. We jumpstart your idea to something that resembles venture. At this point, if you have solid things and connections you will have access to capital.

**Bradley B:** What do you want to gain from the GSS? Funding? Advertisement?

**Presenter:** Both-- mostly advertisement. We will get enough funding from companies, but it's always good to have involvement from the GSS and other events at UBC.

**Krish:** What opportunities will there be for people who are not in sciences? For ex. I am a lawyer.

**Presenter:** There is valuable experience in joining the venture. You are more familiar with paperwork unlike engineers.

**Alyssa:** What is the timeline for signing up, and advertisement for those interested in joining?

**Presenter:** We start in Sept, and have until Dec to sign up for a workshop. Competitions start in Oct and finish in Nov. If you want to just attend a workshop, you are welcome-- you just need to sign up.

**Nathaniel:** Who do you refer to when you say "we"?

**Presenter:** We, the organizers; me and two other cofounders; Blair Simonite, Program Director of Entrepreneurship@UBC; James Olsen, Dean of Applied Science; Administration of Chemical and Biological Engineering.

## **d. Matter #3 Presentation/Topic Title:**

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## i. **Motion: VP Students' 2017-- 2018 Budget**

~~WHEREAS...~~

~~BIRT HF recommends the 2017-2018 GSS VP Students' GSS budget to Council as presented.~~

~~**MOVER:** Nathaniel L.      **SECONDER:** Jenn      Motion: 7/0/1~~

Move to amend agenda: remove the motion above because the same motion had been passed in the previous council, and replace with the motion below.

**MOVER:** Alyssa K.      **SECONDER:** Atefeh M.S

For (21): Bradley Balaton, John Dupuis, Jasleen Grewal, Nandinee Haq, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Souvik Ray, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Abstained: Emily Murphy

Motion passed. Agenda amended

WHEREAS GSS Council passed the 2017-2018 GSS budget on the condition of revising the VP Students budget at the August Council meeting.

WHEREAS the HF Committee has recommended and updated VP Students budget to Council

BIRT GSS Council adopts the revised VP Students 2017-2018 budget as presented, in place of the VP Students budget presented in the July GSS Council meeting.

**MOVER:** Shona R.      **SECONDER:** Alyssa K.

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### Discussion:

**Shona:** Arezoo and Dante put a lot of work into rising the VP Student budget. They extended the student initiative fund by 8k, so keep track of the Services Committee because they figure out how to distribute that. HF was very happy with us.

*For (19): Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Jasleen Grewal, Nandinee Haq, Sarah Jackson, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu*

*Abstained: Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy*

Motion passed

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## F. Strategic Theme 2: Community: Presentations & Motions

*Vision: The GSS supports UBC graduate students by fostering a positive, inclusive, and connected community on and off-campus, and by actively supporting initiatives to improve health and well-being.*

### 1. Matters to Note

#### a. See final section for written updates from:

i. VP Students

ii. Services Committee

iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc

Committee

iv. GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc

Committee

#### b. Questions none

### 2. Matters for Decision

#### a. **Affiliate Organization Recognition**

##### i. *Motion:*

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

**BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in ~~Aug~~ ~~May~~ 2018:

- Indian Graduate Student Association(IGSA)
- Mechanical Engineering Graduate Association (MEGA)
- Economics graduate student association

Friendly Amendment:

**Arezo:** Amend to change the ending month to August 2018 instead of May 2018.

**SECONDER:** Peter M.

Motion passed.

**MOVER:** Katerina O.

**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

*For (23): Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Jasleen Grewal, Nandinee Haq, Sarah Jackson, Namrata Jain, Alyssa Kirlin, Nathaniel Lim, Mackenzie Lockhart, Arezo M., Atefeh M.S,*

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*Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Shona Robinson, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu*

Motion passed

**b. Matter #2 Presentation/Topic Title:** Nothing to present

## G. Strategic [Theme 1: Academics](#): Presentations & Motions

*Vision: The GSS empowers UBC graduate students to succeed in their academic endeavours by conducting data-driven advocacy.*

### 1. Matters to Note

a. See final section for written updates from:

i. VP University & Academic Affairs

ii. VP External Relations

iii. Academic & External Affairs  
Committee

iv. Graduate Council

v. Senate

vi. Board of Governors

b. Questions?

**Nathaniel:** One of our senators have resigned, and the other will be working away from senate itself in the coming term. What kind of provisions or plans do we have in terms of replacing the senator?

**Taran:** We don't have any mention in the bylaws or policy manuals regarding if the senator resigns, so I'm not clear right now on how we re-elect the senator. I have accepted the resignation of Miranda Huron. Another senator has contacted me recently, that the senator has changed his mind and he will be working as usual.

**Mackenzie:** The process to replace senator: the AMS gets to replace senators and the AMS does it based on our recommendations. [The AMS] will tell us to pick a senator, and they'll send a letter to who we pick. We as a GSS will be able to make that decision but we have to work with the AMS.

**Alyssa:** Motion to include the resignation in the following motions.

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**SECONDER:** Nathaniel L.

Motion passed

## 2. Matters for Decision

### a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

**WHEREAS Senator Miranda Huron has resigned**

**seconder: nathaniel**

**vote: motion passed**

- i. **BIRT council tasks the AMS caucus to consult with the AMS to figure out appropriate procedures by Sept Council** ~~Group responsible: Hanna Murray, VP External Relations & CASA Chair~~
- ii. ~~Presentation time: 10 minutes~~
- iii. ~~Presentation description: What CASA is and what it has been doing.~~
- iv. ~~Proposed objective: Updating the GSS Council about CASA meeting and its future goals.~~
- v. ~~Relevant materials: None at this time.~~ \_\_\_\_\_

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## H. Matters for Discussion

### 1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:

#### a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

- i. *Group responsible:* \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. presenter/committee)
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. *Proposed objective:* \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. inform/prepare for vote next month)
- v. *Relevant materials:* (i.e. links or filenames)

### 2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

#### a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

- i. *Group responsible:* \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. presenter/committee)
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. *Proposed objective:* \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. inform/prepare for vote next month)
- v. *Relevant materials:* (i.e. links or filenames)

### 3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

#### a. **Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title:**

- i. *Group responsible:* \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. presenter/committee)
- ii. *Presentation time:* 10 minutes
- iii. *Presentation description:* \_\_\_\_\_
- iv. *Proposed objective:* \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. inform/prepare for vote next month)
- v. *Relevant materials:* (i.e. links or filenames)

## I. Notices

### 1. Notice of Next Meeting

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- a. *Date:* September 21, 2017
- b. *Time:* 5:30 pm
- c. *Location:* Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Student Nest

## 2. Notice of Unseatings

**Afifa Mahboob and Aneet Bains** to be unseated as Departmental Representatives for Population and Public Health.

**Han Fei** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for French, Hispanic and Italian Studies.

**Hanna Murray** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for History.

**Kelsey Everard** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Geography.

**Mingzhe Liu** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Botany.

**Michael Wiebe** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Economics.

**James Lawson** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Interdisciplinary Oncology.

**Aneet Bains** to be unseated as Councillors from the Services Committee.

**Mackenzie Lockhart** to be unseated as Councillor from the Code and Policy Committee.

**Gillian Fuss, Mackenzie Lockhart, and Yaseen Mottiar** to be unseated as Councillors from the Governance and Accountability ad hoc Committee.

**Souvik Ray** to be unseated as Councillor from the Human Resources Committee.

**Paschal Okwundu** to be unseated as Ordinary Member from the Executive Oversight Committee.

**Jun Sian Lee** to be unseated as Ordinary Member from the House Finance Committee.

**Adam Howe and Morgan Shepherd** to be unseated as Councillors from the Human Resources Committee.

**Lin Xin, Mahraz Parvand, and Sumeet Mutti** to be unseated as Ordinary Members from the Human Resources Committee.

**David Gill** to be unseated as Ordinary Member from the Human Resources Committee.

**Natasha Little** to be unseated as an External Representative.

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**Bradley Balaton** to be unseated as AMS Council Head Representative.

**Jasleen Grewal, Keskin Owusu Poku, Mackenzie Lockhart, Omar Alomeir, Bradley Balaton** to be unseated as AMS Council Representatives.

## 3. GSS Updates (*~100 words, sent in advance and included in the final agenda*)

### a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

- President
  - ◆ **Taran Dhillon**
  - ◆ Talked to Adrian Fischer, MD Campus Experience, UBC about the inauguration of [Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre](#) scheduled for September 28 at which UBC will be directly addressing one of the major recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Adrian has requested inputs from GSS for the official apology to the indigenous people that will be made by UBC and will be broadcasted live
  - ◆ As promised, we have bought the gift (Thunder & Earthquake Blanket) for the elders of the Ts'aahl clan i.e. Chief Gaahlaay
  - ◆ Also we are working towards making donation for this program in the Haida community <http://www.skidegate.ca/Pages/programs/ship.html> as part of the reconciliation
  - ◆ I am working with the ex-GSS president Gen Cruz to write a letter of apology signed by me and her which will be sent as a package to Chief Gaahlaay, in our attempt to reconcile the past use of the logo.
  - ◆ We are working with the Anthropology Department to promote GSS among the new incoming graduate students by sharing the GSS “swag” ( GSS merchandise) with their incoming September grads this coming year.
  - ◆ In order to increase the presence of GSS on social media and to improve the communications and visibility we have introduced two positions for Work

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learn students as follows: [Visual Communications Manager](#) and [Digital Communications Manager](#). These two positions will help us manage our websites and social media channels, develop engaging digital campaigns and cultivate a strong online graduate student community

- Financial & Executive Oversight Officer
  - ◆ **Dante Mendoza**
  - ◆ Thank you all for your kind support and meaningful feedback, as the House Finance committee finally voted and approved the VP Students Budget.
  - ◆ I feel relieved that we were able to complete this important milestone and I trust this budget will enable GSS and Executive members to pursue the plans and goals of the society for this year and the future.
- Executive Oversight Committee
  - ◆ **Dante Mendoza**
- Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee
  - ◆ **Natalie Marshall**
  - ◆ The G&S Committee has completed an up-to-date organizational flowchart for the GSS. Using this flowchart as well as a professional external review of the GSS from 2010, we have begun to identify gaps or sources of confusion in our governance structure. We have organized these gaps into five preliminary themes: (1) Council size/structure and Councillor engagement; (2) Institutional memory & continuity; (3) Engagement with our membership; (4) Executive & Councillor orientation/training/development; and (5) Code and policy. We will continue developing these themes to develop priorities & recommendations to improve our structure and policies, and will be engaging relevant committees for support in the future months.
- House Finance Committee



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- ◆ **Jennifer Campbell**
- ◆ Since last council meeting, HF has been working with VP Students to finalize that portion of the budget. We are presenting the 2017-2018 VP Students budget today for approval from council.
- Code & Policy Committee – No Updates
- Human Resources Committee
  - Arif Arif
  - The HR committee has received more than 70 applications for the position of part-time Administrative Assistant and we have started the process of interviewing and shortlisting the candidates
  - The process of interviews of the Advocacy Coordinators is in progress this week and the two member committee will release the results and the final list of selected candidates very soon
  - We have started drafting the duties and job description of the General Manager and will soon put out the job posting for the position once we have finalized the job role and duties.
- AMS Council
  - Bradley Balaton
- Elections Committee– No updates
- GSS/AMS REFERENDUM AD HOC COMMITTEE
- a. Graduate Student Community
  - i. VP Students
    - **Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi**
    - bard on the beach sold out– Stanley park bike tour sold out but cancelled! 3 of their guides were in a car accident, and they had no guide for that day– celebration of light festival meet-up was held

## ii. Services Committee

- Matt Gynn
- The services committee has helped work out a memorandum of understanding with Graspods in place of a contract that had been previously discussed regarding the volleyball nets purchased earlier in the summer of 2017.
- The services committee has discussed the VP Student's 2017-2018 budget and we believe after further clarification that the budget is acceptable.
- There is room in the budget to increase the event fund to \$18K this year, compared to \$10k last year. The services committee is in on-going discussions to determine guidelines that aim to ensure fair distribution of the event fund for the upcoming year.

## iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee

- Katerina Othonos
- During our August working meeting:
  - Decided on a qualitative data analysis plan/key
  - Divided the work to be replicated by 3 separate groups of committee members
  - Key/plan will be re-evaluated based on first draft of analysis results
  - This will establish an analysis plan for future surveys
  - On-going till our next working meeting in September:
  - Finalize document with the survey data (no qualitative yet)
  - Complete a first draft of qualitative analysis document
  - Divide work for policy and literature review for the final report
  - Communicate with executives and SEER group about sending the new version of the survey out during the next term

## iv. GSS/AMS Referendum ad hoc Committee

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- Bradley Balaton
- a. Graduate Student Academics
  - i. VP University & Academic Affairs
    - Teilhard Paradela
  - ii. VP External Relations
    - Hanna Murray
  - iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee
    - Teilhard Paradela
  - iv. Graduate Council
    - Resha Sabti
  - v. Senate
    - Resignation of senator, Miranda Huron
    - Francisco Gallegos:
  - vi. Board of Governors
    - Jeanie Malone and Kevin Doering

**Taran:** Brief updates: I talked to the Managing Director of Campus Experience, Adrian Ficsher, and this year UBC is planning to inaugurate the Indian Residential School District Centre on Sept 28, and UBC will officially apologize to the Indigenous people. All the classes will be stopped for 1 hour, and the school will be broadcasted live throughout the entire country. They have asked the GSS to share any ideas for this event. I shared with the Managing Director that we are also a part of the reconciliation with the Haida nation, and if possible, we could have both these events align together.

**Arezo:** The Services Committee talked about how we can improve the experience at orientation, and one way is with the involvement of GSS members. Usually new students are shy, and they need someone to talk to them and make events more social. I posted this on the Facebook page but we didn't get a response. Come and talk with the students and give your experiences and any

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type of social skills is really appreciated.

### J. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:53 pm.

**MOVER:** Mackenzie L.

**SECONDER:** Shona R.

Motion passed