A. Attendance (1:59:03)
2. Regrets: Elham Abouei, Pablo Silva, Nandinee Haq.
4. Quorum: 17 Councillors

B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda
1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:36 pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.
   MOVER: Nathaniel Lim  SECONDER: Peter Musser
   Motion passed.

Motion to add sub-section x. Senate to section E.1.a.

Francisco : I want to add section E.1.a.x. that says Senate.
Mover: Francisco    Seconder: Nathaniel L.
Discussion: none

Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Motion passes.

Senetor's Report:
Francisco G: Senate started a 3 year cycle, and all senators have been working together to develop objectives for the committees that we are part of. Once the documents are ready, I will send that to GSS to be distributed for the Council's review. Also, we are looking for a replacement for Miranda Huron, and we talked to Taran for the best way to elect a senator as soon as possible. Hope that we can find a replacement before the next council meeting.

Motion to amend AO Recognition from F.2.a. to come before E.2.

Nathaniel L: I want to bring forward item on pg. 5 of agenda – Matters for Decision: AO recognition (F.2.a.) and move it to come before (E.2.)

Motivation: The item that succeeds it touches upon certain agreements that have been made during Council Meeting couple of months ago. So, it is better to recognize the AOs before we actually start discussing.

Jennifer C: This particular organization tried to be affiliated several times, but because we did not have quorum, so we really want to recognize them today.

Mover: Nathaniel L.  Seconder: David G.


Motion passes.

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 September 2018:
Graduate Student Wellbeing Network

The Graduate Student Wellbeing Network is comprised of graduate students from departments across campus who meet on a volunteer basis to promote grad wellbeing. There are about 40 representatives who sign up per year and our goal is to maintain a democratic system to promote mental health and well being of grad students.

MOVER: Nathaniel Lim       SECONDER: Krish Maharaj


Motion passes.

Motion to amend Motion ‘E.b.i. Subletting of the GSS Loft Space’ to come before approval of minutes

Mover: Natalie M.       Seconder: Amanda P.

Nathaniel L: I need motivation.

Natalie M: One of the stakeholders involved in this conversation can only attend for the next 20 minutes. So, I propose we talk about this now and proceed with seatings and approval of minutes immediately after.

Alyssa K: questions to Natalie if the Stakeholder is the Graduate Student Wellbeing Network.

Natalie M: Yes, the stakeholders are Grad Wellbeing Network.

Alyssa K: Nathaniel’s original amendment is to move the AO recognition to come before the motion: Subletting of the GSS Loft Space, then, we may need to make a follow up amendment to move Nathaniel’s amendment even further up so it comes before the motion that Natalie is trying to make.

Speaker: Clarifies that Section F.2.a. AO Recognition motion to come after Section B. Adoption of
Agenda and then the motion on Subletting GSS Loft Space follows.

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion:
Francisco G: Requests for a quick update from the senate before leaving at 6:30.

Speaker: Need a seconder to put it on the floor. Approved.
So, senate report now, AO, then the loft motion.

Discussion:
Bradley B: A quick notification that we'll be sending GSS councillors the Needs Assessment survey for GSS/AMS Referendum Committee.

Mover: Bradley Balaton Seconder: Lisa Zhu

Approved.

Brief Summary of discussions regarding the sublease of the loft space.
From the HF:
- The Sexual Assault Prevention and Intervention office is interested in renting out the front room of the GSS Loft.
- Pros: To be in support of this office and in prevention and intervention against sexual violence.
- Attain money over the 18-month period.
- Cons: Risk losing space, especially without a contract to sublease the space, it puts us in an awkward situation with the AMS.
- A time constraint; this group would like an answer by October and it's not enough time for us to come up with a contract.
- The goal of GSS is not to make money, but to serve graduate students and their wellbeing.
- Also, this loss of particular contract is only a small part of our financial budget of the year – the deficit can be made up easily.

From GSS:
- We need to consider the students who are not on campus; many of
them have reached out to us to get their voices heard.

- We need more capital to carry out projects which will benefit the graduate students as a whole, regardless of them being on campus or not.
- These constituencies have less access to resources, and more vulnerable than the rest of the graduate student population.
- Increased funding will not only allow the GSS to provide better services directly to students but also, it will allow us to advocate more effectively on their behalf.
- Financial constraints hinder many of our efforts to support the graduate students at UBC. The mitigation and removal of these constraints will allow us to serve graduate students like never before.
- The spaces for off-campus students is very limited and we don't have enough funds to support them; they reach out to us with great initiatives that will benefit graduate students as a whole.
- With more funds, we can provide better mobility and ability to reach out to many student constituencies that we were not able to before.

From other council members:

- There is no clear provision whereby once this agreement is annulled, we'll be getting another space of our own.
- If we needed a lump sum for projects, we've got money reserved for those purposes.
- It gives us ongoing value to Grad Students and it gives us a way to bargain with the AMS.
- We've also offered the SAPI other spaces but they refused. They would still serve graduate students just as well even if they took a different space.
- The contract says we cannot, then we have to follow the contract.
- The pottery club will buy us enough time to come up with a new contract with AMS.
- No guarantee that all the revenue earned by subleasing will come to us.

The votes reflect that almost all of the councillors are in favour of not subleasing the loft space (with a few abstains). Consequently, no subleasing of GSS loft is allowed.

C. Subletting of the GSS Loft Space
D. Presentation (Jennifer Campbell) – House Finance Committee

WHEREAS the benefits of the GSS Loft Space were deemed greater than the potential revenue generated by that space,

WHEREAS BIRT the House Finance Committee does not recommend subletting the GSS Loft Space.

BIRT GSS will not sublet the GSS Loft Space.

Mover: Nathaniel Lim    Seconder: Taran Dhillon    Motion: Pass-6/ No-0/ Abstain-1

For (20): Rachele Benjamin, John Dupuis, David Gill, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Amanda Pisio, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu

Against (4): Teilhard Paradela, Bradley Balaton, Areezo Alemzadeh Mdhrizi, Hanna Murray

Abstained: Taran Dhillon, Areezo M., Keskine Owusu Poku, Sebastien Rettie

E. Introductions

F. Approval of Minutes

BIRT the following minutes are approved as presented.

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
   a. August 2017

2. Committee minutes for approval:

Mover: Jennifer C.    Seconder: Amenda P.

For (20): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Amanda Pisio, Shona Robinson, Balsher Sidhu, Anna Vozna, Christina Wiesmann, Lisa Zhu
Minutes passed.

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

3. **Matters to Note**
   a. See final section for written updates from:
      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. Senate

   b. Questions?
      None: move forward

4. **Matters for Decision**
   a. **Seatings**
      i. New Councillors
      
      **BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:**
      **Emily Leischner** to be seated as Departmental Representative for Anthropology.
      **Katerina Othonos** to be seated as Departmental Representative for Neuroscience.

      **MOVER:** Bradley B.  **SECONDER:** Christina W.

      Abstained: Sebastien Rettie
At the GSS Council Meeting on September 21, 2017, the following actions were taken:

**Motion passed.**

### ii. Committee Seatings

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committees</th>
<th>Meeting Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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 of graduate students.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CODE AND POLICY COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Currently meets once a month. Regular schedule TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELECTIONS COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Elections Committee is accountable for conducting annual Society elections.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Currently no meetings scheduled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Every 2nd &amp; 4th Thursday, 6:00-7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GSS/AMS REFERENDUM AD HOC COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Every 2nd Wednesday evening from 6-10 pm during the school year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AD HOC COMMITTEE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>First Wednesday of each month, 3-8pm (we have long...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

**HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**
The House Finance Committee works to ensure the financial stability and 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.

**HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**
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.

**SERVICES COMMITTEE**
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIRT the following Seatings be approved:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_________________ to be seated as the AMS Council Representative (1 needed).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speaker: Motivations or nominations?

Bradley B: We hold meetings every second Wednesday, we are similar to the GSS, but we deal with all the stuff that’s related to all students on campus.

Natalie M: Part of the new format of the agenda was including the description of each committee so that we can save time by not presenting a description every time. So, if it’s acceptable to the speaker, than I would like to propose that we do that.

Speaker: Accepted.
Alyssa K: I don’t think we have a description yet for AMS council.

Speaker: Noted.

__________ to be seated as Graduate Council Representatives. (5 needed).
__________ to be seated as Graduate Council Head Representative. (1 needed).
__________ to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).
David G: I nominate Amber Shieling.
Speaker: Amber does not accept that
__________ to the Academic and External Affairs Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).
__________ to the Code and Policy Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).
David Gill to the Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

David G: I nominate myself.

Natalie: point of order, are you still a councillor?

David G: I am an AMS rep, therefore, a councillor.

_______ to the Elections Committee as a Chair.
__________ to the Elections Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).
__________ to the Elections Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).
Any nominations for any of the following?

__________ to the Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).
__________ to the Executive Oversight Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).
__________ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).
__________ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).
__________ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an AMS Council Representative. (2 needed).
__________ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as a Health & Dental Plan Committee Representative. (1 needed).
__________ to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as an
Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

___________ to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).

**Jasleen Grewal** to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

___________ to the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

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

___________ to the House Finance Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

___________ to the Human Resources Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

___________ to the Human Resources Committee as a Councillor. (0 needed).

___________ to the Services Committee as an Ordinary Member. (0 needed).

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

MOVER: Nathaniel L.    SECONDER: Alyssa K.


Motion passed.

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

**Subletting of the GSS Loft Space**

i. **Motion:**

WHEREAS the benefits of the GSS Loft Space were deemed greater than the potential revenue generated by that space,

BIRT the House Finance Committee does not recommend subletting the GSS Loft Space.

Mover: Nathaniel Lim    Seconder: Taran Dhillon    Motion: Pass-6/ No-0/ Abstain-1

MOVER: ___________ SECONDER: ___________ RESULT: ___________
H. 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.

5. **Matters to Note**
   a. See final section for written updates from:
      i. VP Students Committee
      ii. Services Committee
      iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee
      iv. GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee
   b. Questions:
      Alyssa K: I really like your summary of all the events you had for orientation. Are you going to send out a survey for feedback to any of the students?

      Arezoo M: we’re going to send out a survey for any feedbacks through google doc. We welcome any feedbacks.

      Amanda P: One question to services committee. What’s the reasoning behind removing ability to use GSS funds to purchase alcohol?
John D: The University has a sort of unset policy of not spending academic money on alcohol and we are trying to extend that.

Amanda P: How do you determine which AO are off campus?

Arezoo M: We are already aware of which ones are off campus or not. We have tonnes of AOs that have their students partly on campus and off-campus such as GrasPods. As a member of the Services Committee, I would like to mention that for event funds, we received applications to hold an orientation at a pub off campus to accommodate all students on and off campus. How the money will be distributed to them is also what we need to figure out from the committee. When the decisions/changes are made, we send them to CPC and they make the amendment in council. Also, I evaluate the AO events and approve them and how much money is delivered depends on the number of participants.

Bradley B: one of the reasons for alcohol was the liability; we can get sued if people get hurt.

Alyssa K: Are the changes to event fund is of consideration?

Arezoo M: Yes, we haven't started yet

Nathaniel L: When the Services Committee bring the framework, they get sent to CPC where we right up the rules behind which gets amended based on the policy manual and then requires a vote in council.

6. 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 September 2018:
   
   ● Graduate Student Wellbeing network
   
   MOVER: _______nath__________ SECONDER: _______krish_______ RESULT: 
   
   b. **Matter #2 Presentation/Topic Title:**

   None at this time.
i. Group responsible: _________________________ (i.e. presenter/committee)

ii. Presentation time: 10 minutes

iii. Presentation description: _________________________

iv. Proposed objective: _________________________ (e.g. adopt/ratify)

v. Relevant materials: (i.e. links or filenames)

vi. Motion (standalone):

WHEREAS ...

BIRT ...

MOVER: _______________ SECONDER: _______________ RESULT:

________________

... Next page: Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics
I. Strategic Theme 1: Academics: Presentations & Motions

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

7. 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?

Natalie M: I would like to thank everyone who submitted updates under the theme two category. Everyone in that category submitted their updates. The updates on the agenda is to save time during council. If I don't see any updates for the upcoming councils, I will start asking questions to each individual committee for updates because I would like to see that progress is being made. This how we keep you guys accountable and also to see what the GSS is doing. There's something here that talks to the September 4th meeting and how the lease on the Thea Koerner House is being discussed. Can anyone maybe talk about what's been discussed and what position this puts the GSS in?

Taran D: I recently met with BOGS and this issue was not brought up. If the council gives me a deadline, I can provide updates.

Speaker: Noted.

Alyssa K: Maybe provide in the Oct. Council?

Speaker: can propose a motion or trust that he will do it.
8. **Matters for Decision**
   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)
      vi. **Motion:**

... *Next page: Matters for Discussion*
J. Matters for Discussion

9. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:
   a. Matter #1 Presentation/Topic Title: Logo Meeting Discussion
      i. Group responsible: Hanna Murray / VP External Relations
      ii. Presentation time: 10 minutes
      iii. Presentation description: holding a meeting for discussing GSS's new logo
      iv. Proposed objective: To discuss Council's interest in attending a meeting to discuss
         GSS's new logo.
      v. Relevant materials: None at this time.

Hanna M: I would like to offer councillors an opportunity to meet and talk about our
logo. We'd like to see a more publically articulated logo. We'll circulate a sign up sheet
and doodle pool.

Questions:
Krish M: can we submit designs to you?

Hanna M: Yes, only because I would like to see what they are like.

Taran D: As part of the reconciliation process, I am in conversation with the elders of
Musquem and we cannot get the people to assign a logo for GSS.

Amber (p for Anna V): In the reconciliation of the past logo, had the apology and
discussion gone forward or did that get lost in transition?

Speaker: you need to address the presenter.

Taran D: The previous GSS president, Gen, has been working on it and wanted to make
sure she prepare well for reconciliation. We have prepared a letter and gift, and cheque.
So, all the procedures have been completed. We are just waiting for approval from the
president.

10. 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)

11. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:
   a. GSS x SUS Mentorship Program
      i. Group responsible: GSS Faculty of Science Council representatives + UBC Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)
      ii. Presentation time: 5 minutes, by Natalie Marshall
      iii. Presentation description: The GSS is partnering with the SUS for a second year of a graduate + undergraduate mentorship program. Calling all grad students in sciences, this is a great opportunity to get involved, get mentorship experience (including formal training), and help the local undergrads by sharing your experience. Our kick-off event is Wed. Sept 27th @ 5:30pm (with dinner).
      iv. Proposed objective: Inform Departmental Representatives in the sciences, to spread the word to their departments.
      v. Relevant materials: More info: http://sus.ubc.ca/mentorship/

      Christina, Yangfan and I are the Faculty of Science Reps. We are also a part of what we initiated two years ago; a collaboration with the science undergrads to come up with a mentorship program. This is a 2nd year of mentorship between undergraduate science students and grad students.
      We're hoping to extend it to a tri-mentoring program to include science alumni, and people working in the field, but we are now focusing in a two way mentorship to share experiences about grad program and there are many perks of being a mentor: career karma, and there's going to be an alumni night networking event.
      GSS reps insisted on professionally lead professional information workshops; if you want to develop your professional skills, you'll be trained as a mentor by someone in the UBC Centre for Student Careers. Also, you'll get chances to enhance CV, and connect with UBC alumni. We're looking for mentors to sign up as soon as possible as the kick off is Sept, 27th, which is next Wed at 5pm with dinner provided in the Ladha building. Many of your are departmental reps for sciences, so I am hoping you can tell your constituents to promote this opportunity. So, sign up before the 27th.
      We have 43 undergrads signed up, but only 13 mentors. Last year we had 100 grad students who signed up. You can mentor one or two students depending on your choice to supervise, and you won't be pressured to doing something that you don't want.
Atefeh S: I wanted to be more involved with it. There was a disconnection between mentee and mentor. Many mentors were not set up with a mentee. What are you doing to fix that?

Natalie M: I also had the same experience last year, we had 100 undergraduate students signed up. Mentors, Yangfan was pushing on what mentors want. And we're working on improving that, so give it a chance. Nathaniel L: we can have the redirect set up for the mailing list or do we need to direct the email to the AA?

Natalie M: We can either forward that to Taran or the AA to have them distributed using the mailing list.

Alyssa: Are you also wanting for the mentors to sign up from the medicine in graduate programs?

Nat: Yes, we are marketing it as graduate students in sciences and you'd be of value guiding the undergrad students.

Nicholas R: Is it just sciences or applied sciences?

Christina W: If it's in the interest of undergrads to have mentors from applied sciences, then yes. Also, they seemed open to have art students to be mentors.

Speaker: We now have adjournment.

The link for the GSS-AMS Referendum Needs Assesement survey: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x85qer231YBvQRheAf9Stdubsxe-P2w5EXy-8ieGkmg/edit?usp=sharing

C. Adjournment
1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:11 pm.
   MOVER: Shona R.  SECONDER: Bradley B.

   For (23): Bradley Balaton, Rachele Benjamin, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Krish Maharaj, Natalie Marshall, Emily Murphy, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine
Motion passes.

D. Notices

1. Notice of Next Meeting
   a. **Date:** October 19, 2017
   b. **Time:** 5:30 pm
   c. **Location:** Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Student Nest

2. Notice of Unseatings
   - **Meng Li and Sara Vazirian** to be unseated as Ordinary Members from the Academic and External Affairs Committee.
   - **Katerina Othonos** to be unseated as Departmental Representative for Neuroscience.
   - **Anna Ringsred** to be unseated as Chair and Councillor of the Elections Committee.
   - **Anna Ringsred** to be unseated as Graduate Council Representative.
   - **Abhishek Kar** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability.
   - **Keskine Owusu Poku** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Public Policy and Global Affairs.
   - **Mackenzie Lockhart** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Political Science.
   - **Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Mining Engineering.
   - **Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Graduate Council Head Representative.
   - **Sara Vazirian** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Medicine.
   - **Paul Bucci** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Computer Science.
   - **Paul Bucci** to be unseated as Councillor of the Executive Oversight Committee.
   - **Souvik Ray** to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Educational Studies.
   - **Dan Kehila** to be unseated as Representative of AMS/GSS Health and Dental Committee.
   - **Amanda Pisio, Anna Ringsred, Balsher Singh Sidhu, Natalie Marshall, Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Graduate Council Representatives.
   - **Resha Sabti** to be unseated as Graduate Council Head Representative.
   - **David Gill, Tamara Dudley** to be unseated as Ordinary Members of the Harassment & Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.
   - **Jasleen Grewal** to be unseated as AMS Council Representative of the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee.
   - **Jasleen Grewal** to be unseated as AMS Council Representative.
Jasleen Grewal to be unseated as Councillor on the Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee.

Shona Robinson to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Applied Science.

Shona Robinson to be unseated as Councillor of the House Finance Committee.

Sneha Balani to be unseated as Ordinary Member of the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee.

Pablo Silva to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences.

Namrata Jain to be unseated as Departmental Representative of Chemistry.

3. GSS Updates (~100 words, sent in advance and included in the final agenda)
   a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society
      i. President – Taran Dhillon
      •
      ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer – Keskine Owusu Poku
      •
      iii. Executive Oversight Committee – Keskine Owusu Poku
      •
      iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee – Natalie Marshall
         • Agenda Feedback: Tonight, the G&A Committee will be collecting feedback from Councillors on the new agenda template (before and during the meeting) and we will review feedback at our next meeting in order to make the new agenda as readable and effective as possible. Please provide your input! :)
         • Councillor Training: We are reviewing the training process for new Councillors and committee chairs. So far, we have developed recommendations, including immediate, short-, and long-term changes. Good timing since we'll be seating GSS committees at October Council.
         • GSS Governance: We are developing a Vision for GSS governance, which will come to Council to feedback in the next few months. From there, between then and the March AGM, we will develop an action plan to accomplish that vision, with internal consultation and external research. Our topics of focus are: student representation, oversight & accountability, efficiency + effectiveness, and membership engagement + communication.
         • Next Steps: We will be preparing all GSS committees to make their annual goals around the strategic plan, and continuing to develop a Vision to guide recommendations to restructure the GSS for more effective governance. Also continuing all work mentioned above.
      v. House Finance Committee – Jennifer Campbell
GSS Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2017 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30pm

- Since last council meeting, HF has been discussing renting out GSS space to other departments and organizations. We have also been exploring additional sources of revenue from the AMS that we may be eligible for.
- Meeting schedule: to be determined.

vi. Code & Policy Committee – Nathaniel Lim

vii. Human Resources Committee – Arif Arif

viii. AMS Council –

ix. Elections Committee –

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

i. VP Students – Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi

- Orientation was successful; all of our events were sold out. This year, we put every event, even free ones, on Eventbrite to have a track of number of people attending. This helped tremendously with a successful organizing. Events were included:
  - **September 1st**: Campus tour (about 300 participants); MOA tour (100 people); BBQ (130 participants); Resource fair (about 200 participants); Boat cruise (195 students bought it, and around 180 showed up) collectively GSS served around 900 students!
  - **September 8th**: 90 people participated speed friending. Overall, people liked it, and gave us feedback to make it shorter and hold it in an open area to reduce the noise
  - **September 10th**: Welcome to Grad Families @ Acadia. We capped for 20 at first, but 25 kids showed up. Activities included: face painting, crafting balloon animals, and an entertainer, who entertained kids with lots of games. Some sweets were served
  - **September 11th**: Pancake breakfast, everybody loved it and thanked us!
  - **September 16th**: Dog Mountain Hike was held successfully with 86 people!
- In next coming weekends, we have whale watching (Sep 23rd) and city tour (Sep 30th)
- We are registering for Yoga, Zumba, and French class!
- Next month events include: grad night out at the science world, Fraser valley wine tour
- Off campus:
  - Last month, two volley ball set nets have been handed to GrasPods to rent it
to the GSS members, priority given to off campus students. Memorandum of understanding was used as a document for this process, which basically says those nets are GSS properties borrowed to GrasPods to make them available for off campus students. GrasPods needs to provide a renting calendar each semester to GSS to make it available on GSS website. GrasPods needs to develop measurements to protect the nets from damaging, stealing etc. However, tearing after 4-5 years are considered normal.

♦ ***For the first time, GSS yoga class is going to be held at off campus as well! That's happening with support of Louise Cowin, UBC VP students, and collaboration with UBC recreation office***

♦ When space challenge solved in early September, we realized that our French teacher doesn't have time this semester, otherwise we would be able to hold French class off campus. We will have French class for off campus, next semester!

- **EventFund has been approved for:** iGSN, Land and Food Systems Graduate Student Association, Economics graduate student association, Pathology student association, Vancouver prostate center graduate student association, Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association
- We run survey among our sport leagues' participants. We got a lot of positive feedback, besides, students asked for hiring professional referees, bringing down our prices, and some offers regarding changing the timing.
- **Questions on the survey include:** 1. How was your experience? Did you get any value out of it? 2. Do you find these kind of programs, such as team sports, help improve mental health and the sense of community and belonging? If not, please suggest how the GSS can support student wellness and well-being better 3. Have you participated in any other sports league? If so, what do you think that league has that the GSS doesn't and vice versa? 4. Any feedback or suggestions for improvement on the sports league?5. If we were to organize fall and winter sport leagues, what types of sports would you suggest? 6. Additional comments?

ii. **Services Committee – Matthew Gynn**
- The services committee has reviewed orientation and overall the Fall orientation has been a success. We have made recommendations to improve “Speed Friending” for next year.
- We are planning a “graduate student night out” for Halloween at Science World
- We are discussing policy manual changes regarding the event fund. We want to prevent the event fund from being used to purchase alcohol. We also want to allocate 20% of the event fund for off-campus student groups.
iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee – Katerina Othonos
   ● Discussed our qualitative data analysis plan/key and ironed out some of our difficulties with the analysis.
   ● Reviewed all survey edits and re-evaluated questions for the second version of the H&D survey.
   ● Communicated with SEER and StudentCare regarding the survey and survey gifts.
     A. We might have to send the survey out ourselves this year, so we will have to consider adding a demographics section.
     B. StudentCare is very happy to help us out and provide prizes for our survey!
   ● Had a meeting with the H&D task force and worked out a plan for the policy review for the H&D final report.
   ● On-going till our next working meeting in September:
     ♦ Finalize qualitative analysis and complete a first draft of qualitative analysis document
     ♦ Continue working on the policy and literature review for the final report with the Task Force
     ♦ Meet with SEER head to discuss the survey
     ♦ Finalize the new survey and decide on specifics of how to send out the survey to students
     ♦ Secure the prizes from StudentCare

iv. GSS/AMS Referendum ad hoc Committee – Bradley Balaton
   ● We are developing a survey to send out to determine how GSS members use and value AMS resources.

c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics
   i. VP University & Academic Affairs – Teilhard Paradela
      ● On the GSS website. I have revised the pages on GSS Advocacy, GSS Representation, and GSS Sexual Assault Prevention and Education series, to reflect the current priorities of the Society.
      ● On the GSS Advocacy Office. We have rehired Marjan Abdolahi as advocacy coordinator. And we are hiring a second advocacy coordinator in October, 2017.
      ● On the graduate student residents of the Acadia Park. Upon the invitation of the president of the APRA, I set up a booth at their Welcome BBQ Party. In my various interactions of the residents, I learned more about the issues they have been confronting and explored possibilities of collaboration between the GSS and APRA.
   ii. VP External Relations – Hanna Murray
iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee – Yahya Mohammadzadeh

iv. Graduate Council –

v. Senate – Francisco Gallegos

vi. Board of Governors – Jeanie Malone, Kevin Doering
  • The September Board meeting is currently being held, so we are in Kelowna – our regrets! Of relevance to the GSS: the Thea Koerner house lease will be discussed at this meeting.
  • If you are ever interested in discussing items on the BoG agenda, or interested in how to bring materials to BoG, please don't hesitate to contact Kevin or Jeanie.