

# GSS Council Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2018 | Michael Kingsmill Forum, The Nest | 5:30 pm

## A. Attendance

1. Present: Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Erik Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo Mehrizi, Atefeh Samani, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray,, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Eric Ottenbacher, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Lisa Zhu, Atefeh Samani (proxy for Elham Abouei), Isabel Melendez (proxy for Peter Musser), Justin Falardeau (proxy for Yangfan Zhang), Keskin Owusu Poku, Aniefiok Umoh (proxy for Moutoshi Saha)
2. Regrets: Zoe Lam, Nandinee Haq
3. Absent: evin Doering, Jeanie Malone, Anna Vozna, Balsher Sidhu, Amanda Costa de Oliveira, Francisco Gallegos, Nayid Contreas
4. Quorum: 20 Councillors

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

1. The meeting will be called to order at 5:31pm.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.  
MOVER: Bradley Balaton                      SECONDER: John Dupuis  
For (24): Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Eric Ottenbacher, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Gurjot Singh, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu  
Motion Passed.

## C. Introductions

## D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
  - a. *November 16, 2017.*
2. Committee minutes for approval:
  - a. *Code and Policy Committee: September 18, 2017.*
  - b. *Academic and External Affairs Committee: January 10, 24; February 07; March 02, 21; April 13, 25; June 29, 2017.*
  - c. *Services Committee: December 06, 2017; January 08, 2018.*
  - d. *Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc committee: November 22 and December 6, 2017, and January 10, 2018.*
  - e. *Executive Oversight Committee: November 27, 2017.*

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Mover: Bradley Balaton      Second: Amber Shilling

For (29): Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Against (1): Moutoshi Saha

Abstained: Mohammad Chaudhry, Nathaniel Lim, Darren Touch

Motion Passed.

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

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## E. Strategic [Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society](#): Presentations & Motions

### Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society

*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:

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| i. President                                     | vi. Code & Policy Committee    |
| ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer      | vii. Human Resources Committee |
| iii. Executive Oversight Committee               | viii. AMS Council              |
| iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee | ix. Elections Committee        |
| v. House Finance Committee                       | x. Senate                      |

##### b. Questions?

Alyssa: I have a question for the President and for the House Finance Committee. Do you have any updates on your meeting with the Graduate Student Wellbeing Network, especially regarding the nap room they were supposed to establish?

Taran: I have met them regarding their presentation during the AMS GSS VPS mnthly Meeting. They did share their plans, but the issue of the nap room space was not brought up. I will follow up with them and provide any updates to the council.

Alyssa: Thanks Taran. For House Finance Committee, in your updates about the negotiations with Sauder, it says you are accepting a decrease in the rent per square feet. Could you share how that came about?

Christina: We have not finalized anything right now. We think we're okay taking less per square feet. They offered \$22 per square feet but we wanted \$24. Taran, anything you'd like to add?

Taran: No, there is no decrease in the rent amount rather we requested an increased amount per square feet. Our negotiations are moving in a positive direction. They've decided to accept most of our demands such as the rent, usage of the space, inspection periods, and a bunch of other details. I can share the details with all of you if House Finance agrees. Also, I've got an email this morning from Sauder and they said they are optimistic about the contract and that soon it will be ready to sign.

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## 2. Matters for Decision

### a. **Seatings**

#### i. New Councillors

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

Ashenafi Aboye to be seated as Departmental Representative of Educational Studies.

Amanda Tobias Costa de Oliveira to be seated as Departmental Representative of Civil Engineering.

Gurjot Singh to be seated as Departmental Representative of Experimental Medicine.

Ariana Saatchi to be seated as Departmental Representative of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Anna-Catharina Wilhelm to be seated as Departmental Representative of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

MOVER: Taran Dhillon      SECONDER: Lily Takeuchi

For (34): Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Eric Ottenbacher, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion Passed.

#### ii. Committee Seatings

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

Committees	Meeting Times
<b>ACADEMIC AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE</b> 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.	
<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.	Currently meets once a month. Regular schedule TBD
<b>ELECTIONS COMMITTEE</b>	

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The Elections Committee is accountable for conducting annual Society elections.	
<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.	Currently no meetings scheduled
<b>GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AD HOC COMMITTEE</b> The Governance & 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.	Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 5:00-6:30pm
<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.	Every 2nd Wednesday evening from 6-10 pm during the school year
<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.	First Wednesday of each month, 3-8pm (we have long working meetings at the moment)
<b>HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> 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.	TBD
<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	Every other Mondays from 5-6:30pm

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and community experience of UBC graduate students and their families.	
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**BIRT the following Seatings be approved:**

Ashenafi Alemu to the Code and Policy Committee as a Chair (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Code and Policy Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

Ashenafi Alemu to the Code and Policy Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).

Rochelle S. to the Elections Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

Ashenafi Alemu, Rachel Goossen to the Elections Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Executive Oversight Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

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

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Governance and Accountability Ad Hoc Committee as a Councillor. (3 needed).

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

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Harassment and Discrimination Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

Aisha R. to the Harassment and Discrimination Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the House Finance Committee as a Councillor. (2 needed).

Rory Long to the Human Resources Committee as a Chair. (1 needed).

Rory Long, Ani to the Human Resources Committee as an Ordinary Member. (2 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Human Resources Committee as a Councillor. (1 needed).

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

\_\_\_\_\_ to the AMS Council as the AMS Council Representative. (1 needed).

\_\_\_\_\_ to the GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member. (1 needed).

MOVER: Lisa Zhu

SECONDER: Nathaniel Lim

For (27): Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Dupuis, Rachel Goossen, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Eric Ottenbacher, Keskin Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Moutoshi Saha, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

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Motion passed.

**b. Matter #1 Election Dates for GSS Executive Elections- 2018**

*WHEREAS GSS Policy 12.2.1 states that the dates for Graduate Student Society Elections shall be set and announced to the membership of the society by the no later than 2 months prior to the start of voting, and*

*BIRT GSS Council approves that the GSS will conduct Elections for executive officers from March 19 – 23, 2018*

MOVER: Anna Ringsred

SECONDER: Nathaniel Lim

For (28): Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Eric Ottenbacher, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

**c. Matter #2 Amendment to the Policy Manual (Standing Committees):**

*WHEREAS Policy Manual 7.3.6 provides that all standing committee memberships shall be re-seated at the October Council Meeting,*  
*WHEREAS Bylaw 9.1 provides that the Executive Committee is a standing committee,*  
*WHEREAS Policy Manual 8.2.1 [A, B] provides the membership of the Executive Committee,*  
*WHEREAS Bylaw 8.5.2 [D.III] provides that the President shall chair the Executive Committee,*

*WHEREAS Bylaw 8.5.6 [C] provides that the Financial and Executive Oversight Officer shall chair the Executive Oversight Committee,*

*WHEREAS Bylaw 13.3.1 provides that the Policy Manual shall be binding upon the Society, subject only to the Constitution and Bylaws,*

*WHEREAS Policy Manual 1.1.2 provides that the Bylaws shall prevail in the event that a policy in the Policy Manual is in conflict, WHEREAS Policy Manual 7.3.6 is conflicting with Policy Manual 8.2.1 [A, B], Bylaw 8.5.2 [D.III] and Bylaw 8.5.6 [C],*

*BIRT Policy Manual 7.3.6 shall be amended to the following:*

*7.3.6 Excluding positions occupied by executive officers, all standing committee memberships shall be re-seated at the October Council meeting.*



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MOVER: Nathaniel Lim

SECONDER: CPC Committee

For (31): Elham Abouei, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Madison Bolger-Munro, Mohammad Chaudhry, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirilin, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Eric Ottenbacher, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Lisa Zhu

Abstained: Zeynab Nosrati

Motion passed.

## d. Matter #3 Amendment to the Policy Manual (GSS Event Fund):

*WHEREAS the Services Committee deems the potential liability of an alcohol-related lawsuit too great a burden to bear,*

*WHEREAS the Services Committee has considered the inequality of reimbursement of alcohol related expenditure,*

*WHEREAS the GSS Event Fund is a limited resource that should be used effectively,*

*BIRT Policy Manual 9.2.5 shall be added, and will read as:*

*9.2.5 The Society shall not provide reimbursement for alcoholic beverages.*

MOVER: Services Committee

SECONDER: Code and Policy Committee

Questions:

Alyssa: I personally totally understand where this is coming from, but I feel it's my duty, as the representative of Bio-chemistry, to at least provide what my department AO's thoughts would be. For their events, the turnout, thus networking, and community building is greatly enhanced when there is alcohol in the events. I would like to get on the record that they would probably not like this.

Nathaniel: Though I cannot be 100% sure, we are all liable to being sued for alcohol-related lawsuits and the numbers can be crippling.

Bradley: Would it be possible to get other sources of funding for the alcoholic related expenses?

Areezo: According to current bylaws, the maximum amount to reimburse alcohol beverages is \$300, and if the event is held in GSS, it's \$500. If an accident happens, the executives, and everyone involved in the event will all be liable for it. Also, the money allocated for alcohol can be used to improve the quality of the event.

Liability is huge and we don't have any control over it.

Phil: Is this the only way to reduce the potential liabilities of lawsuits for the GSS?



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Nathaniel: the easiest way is to impose this rule. We can have waivers, but the judges easily dismiss the waivers. So, this would be the easiest method.

Nicholas: Alcohol is the most efficient social lubricant. The wording suggests that any beverages are prohibited, so a bit misleading.

Nathaniel: Join the CPC committee. We did not state that GSS forbids our AOs from having served alcoholic beverages, but if you buy alcohol, we will not reimburse it. Also, main header 9.1 Intention and Purpose: 9.2: conditions of rebate – this only applies to AOs applied through the GSS Event Funds.

Nicholas: This feels like prohibiting alcohol during events, not suggesting that the GSS is not liable for alcohol related accidents.

For (12): Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Rachel Goossen, Jun Sian Lee, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Hanna Murray, Eric Ottenbacher, Keskin Owusu Poku, Theresa Pauly, Amber Shilling

Against (12): Elham Abouei, Phil Angel, Madison Bolger-Munro, Claire Gregoire, Emily Murphy, Zeynab Nosrati, Sebastien Rettie, Ariana Saatchi, Gurjot Singh, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang

Abstained: Mohammad Chaudhry, Alyssa Kirlin, Heather MacKay, Peter Musser, Megan Russell, Nicole So, Lisa Zhu

Motion failed.

*... Next page: Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community*

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

### Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

*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

#### 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 January 2019:

- **Graduate law students' society**
- **Statistics**

MOVER: Arezoo Mehrizi

SECONDER: Nathaniel Lim

For (29): Elham Abouei, Phil Angel, Bradley Balaton, Mohammad Chaudhry, John Dupuis, Rachel Goossen, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Heather MacKay, Emily Murphy, Hanna Murray, Peter Musser, Katerina Othonos, Eric Ottenbacher, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Moutoshi Saha, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.

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

### Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

*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?

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## H. Matters for Discussion

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

#### a. GSS Committee Annual Goal Setting Process

- Group responsible: Natalie Marshall, Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee
- Presentation time: 10 minutes
- Presentation description: G&A will present highlights of the attached comprehensive reports on GSS committees' annual goals, including the overall process of goal-setting and how committees performed this duty, and how this year's committee goals address our Strategic Plan overall.
- Proposed objective: To update Council on the goals set by all GSS committees for this year (as required by the GSS Strategic Plan), and a summary of the process.
- Relevant materials: "Committee Annual Goal Setting Process: 2017-2018 Report," also accessible online [here](#), or in meeting materials.

## I. Notices

### 1. Notice of Next Meeting

- a. Date: February 15, 2018
- b. Time: 5:30 pm
- c. Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum, AMS Student Nest

### 2. Notice of Unseatings

Kallan Lyons to be unseated as Departmental Representative of School of Journalism.

David Gill to be unseated as the AMS Council Representative.

David Gill to be unseated as the Councillor of the Elections Committee, GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee as an Ordinary Member, and as Councillor of the Services Committee.

Lauren Oakley to be unseated as Ordinary Member of the Harassment and Discrimination Committee.

Katerina Othonos to be unseated as Councillor of the Governance and Accountability ad hoc Committee.

Amanda Pisio to be unseated as Ordinary Member of the Governance and Accountability ad hoc Committee.

Arif Arif to be unseated as Chair of the Human Resources Committee.

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

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

##### i. President

- Me and the FEOO attended meeting with the GSS lawyer on Jan 10th regarding the renting the ballroom space to the Sauder School of Business
- We sought second opinion from the lawyer on the current deal and received

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inputs from the lawyer about the issues and asks from the GSS for a better deal for GSS.

- Attended the New graduate students orientation ( Winter session) on Jan 4th and welcomed the new students to join their GSS. Also we talked about the opportunities in GSS and the graduate student community on campus.
  - Jan 5th was the last working day of karen, our previous Communications and Marketing Manager, GSS. We gave her a warm outgoing party and wished her best for the future.
  - Conducted training of 4 new GSS councillors
  - Attended the House Finance meeting on Jan 8th in which we made decisions about the final draft of the GSS ballroom- Sauder Deal and also talked about the possibility of installing digital Ad screens in the GSS building for raising revenues for the GSS.
  - Held meeting with the GSS Executives on Jan 2nd, Jan 9th for monthly updates
  - Attended the AMS GSS VPS meeting on Jan 10th where issues regarding Wellbeing, services for off-campus students were discussed. Also the Graduate Student Wellbeing Network ( one of the GSS AO's) presented in that meeting sharing the awesome work that they have been doing and everyone appreciated their hard work and assured support for them.
  - Attended the UBC Winter connections-2018 as a facilitator at St. John's College where we met new and continuing Graduate students of UBC and shared the opportunities to join GSS and about the advocacy done by UBC.
  - Attended the meeting with the Provost Andrew Szeri, VP Students Louise Cowen and David Short House to provide feedback on the latest [draft of the UBC strategic Plan](#) on Jan 15th. Also in the meeting were the AMS executives.
  - Attended the HR committee which formed a sub committee to hire the new Communications and Marketing Manager in the next month and also made decision on extending the Part Time position of the Administrative Assistant into a Full Time position. Also Roles and Duties of the GM position were shared and discussed.
  - Attended the early Morning Breakfast with several Student leaders from various constituencies of UBC at UBC President Santa Ono's residence on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer
- The Finance and Executive Oversight Officer arranged a meeting with the GSS lawyer to elicit his input into the ballroom offer to lease.
  - At this meeting, the President of GSS, the Chair of HF Committee, and the Office Manager were present.
  - Currently, we are waiting for a feedback from Sauder Business School so that the parties to this agreement to sign the offer to lease.
  - The FEOO is also reviewing documents on the Pub contract and that will be

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brought before the HF Committee in time

## iii. Executive Oversight Committee

- The EOC had a meeting on January 08, 2018 to appraise themselves on the second phase of the evaluation of the performance of the Executive Officers and to plan its agenda for the rest of the semester. Among the possible actions/work to expect from the EOC are:
  - ♦ A joint meeting with G&A to finalise the goals template.
  - ♦ Plan the transition of new executive officers in March after the elections.
  - ♦ Evaluation and Presentation of final performance report in the April council.

## iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee

- Governance:
  - ♦ Conducted a training needs–assessment for the GSS Executives to assist with the upcoming GSS Executive transition, and identified several gaps and feasible solutions in Executive training (in our Nov. 22 minutes). While this is part of EOC's purview (and has now been handed off to them), G&A made the plan to do this important step back at the beginning of our term when EOC was not functioning.
  - ♦ Got Council's feedback on which governance gaps to prioritize for the rest of our term, both through a vote in Council and an online survey afterwards (25 responses).
  - ♦ Preparing new Terms of Reference for a possible standing committee on governance (in our Jan. 10 minutes; ongoing).
  - ♦ Preparing our end-of-term report on our year-long review of GSS governance (in our Jan. 10 minutes; ongoing)
- Accountability:
  - ♦ Completed the fall annual goals review for all GSS committees, external caucuses, and the FEOO. Presented [preliminary results](#) to Council in December, and a [comprehensive report](#) is being presented to Council tonight.
  - ♦ Started researching how to hold G&A itself accountable the same way that G&A is holding all other committees accountable to the GSS Strategic Plan and annual goals (in our Dec. 6 minutes).

## v. House Finance Committee

- The committee is almost ready to sign the lease agreement with Sauder. We discussed a couple of conditions we would like before we sign the lease. Mainly, HF is willing to accept less rent per month (i.e. \$22 instead of \$24/sq ft.). However, we would really like the damage deposit to be higher than the \$14 000. Even if we could get it up to half way between \$14 000 and \$28 000, that

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would be fine.

- The committee agreed that the new ad screen seems like an okay deal. However, we would really like to see a contract of some sort before we approve it.
- Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 31st at 5pm.

vi. Code & Policy Committee

- 

vii. Human Resources Committee

- 

viii. AMS Council

- 

ix. Elections Committee

- The election committee has chosen the dates of the next election to be March 19 – 23. The campaign schedule will be from March 5 through March 23, the nomination period from January 23 until February 23 and the All-Candidates Meeting will be held on February 23 at 5pm. Voting will take place using the AMS SimplyVoting. Details will be available on the GSS website and in the GSS newsletter. The committee is currently looking for at least 2 new members to reach quorum. New members will be essential for the next two months while we prepare for the upcoming election. If interested, please contact [elections@gss.ubc.ca](mailto:elections@gss.ubc.ca).

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

i. VP Students

- **Event fund has been approved for:**
  - GrasPods
  - Civil Engineering graduate student society
  - Land and food systems graduate student association
- **EVENTS:**
  - **Bowling:** was hold on January 13; it was sold out (48ppl)
  - **Whistler:** Will be on January 27<sup>th</sup>; In the selling process
  - **January Orientation:**  
January orientation was held in collaboration with G+PS and international house; Events include: January 4<sup>th</sup>: **Pancake breakfast** (around 50-60 people served); **Campus tour** (20 people); **Speed friending** (80 people registered, but 30 showed up, they stayed about 1:30 after event!). January 5<sup>th</sup> (Welcome back koerner's pub social).
- **Surveys:** has been send out for Bowling and January orientation



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- **Advocacy:** Had a meeting with director of student development and services office, director of counseling center, and associate dean of G+PS regarding grad students' concerns and issues with counseling center. I summarized the concerns, which was mentioned in 2017 GSS annual survey, and provided to them and discussed with them. That meeting also led to them asking SEERS to analyze GSS annual survey, and SEERS accepted, while they formerly refused to help GSS with analyzing its annual survey! We will have following meetings to work on the issues.
  - **OFF campus:**  
Yoga and French 101 and 102 has been set up for this semester; We are on the process of selling.
  - **Advocacy for off campus:**  
I have led establishing a working group for off campus advocacy. We wrote an advocacy letter regarding the off campus issues and our asks. I handed that letter to Santa Ono (UBC president), Louise Cowin (UBC VP students), Andrew Szeri (UBC provost and VP academic). The letter is attached.
- ii. Services Committee
- 
- iii. Harassment & Discrimination ad hoc Committee
- H&D has been analyzing the 2017 survey, as well as conducting interviews with students that have requested so after completing the survey. We are working to put together the whole 2016 and 2017 dataset in a format that can be appended to our final report.
- iv. GSS/AMS Referendum ad hoc Committee
- 
- c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics
- i. VP University & Academic Affairs
- 
- ii. VP External Relations
- I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday! As VP External, I have a few major updates as follows:
  - CASA:  
In November, CASA held its annual advocacy week, where we had the opportunity to lobby the federal government on a number of student issues. Of particular importance to the GSS was our graduate student scholarship ask. December was rather uneventful as people recovered from Advocacy Week and as holidays approached, but early January the mental health paper was published. The link to the paper is here: <http://www.casa->

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acaе.com/breaking\_down\_barriers\_mental\_health\_and\_post\_secondary\_students. This term, we will continue to review CASA policies and work to improve the organization.

- **ABCS:**  
I had a meeting with fellow officers and staff to discuss a variety of matters, including funding opportunities for the organization as well as our campaign and lobbying plans for the year. In particular, we discussed the upcoming referendum on electoral reform, its impact on students, and the ways in which we could campaign and raise awareness on this issue. I look forward to keeping Council updated as we finalize these plans. The GSS is hosting the next board meeting on January 27th, should any councillors like to attend.
- **ThinkGrad:**  
Early January I had a phone meeting with the President of ThinkGrad, Phil LeBel, and discussed the future progress of the organization. The GSS's role in ThinkGrad will be further discussed in the AcEx committee. The UBC GSS will be hosting the AGM of the organization in April (at no cost to us), which is an exciting opportunity for councillors to become acquainted with the organization.
- **GSS:**  
I have also attended a number of meetings with university officials and other bodies about topics such as the Strategic Plan and the enrolment services review UBC is currently undergoing. I also attended the most recent graduate council meeting and, with the other executives, have a meeting with Dr. Susan Porter planning for this Friday, to occur monthly.

## iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee

- 

## iv. Graduate Council

- 

## v. Senate

- 

## vi. Board of Governors

- December Board meeting minutes can be found [online](#).
- We have three new BoG members, appointed by the Province!
- The next Board meetings will be held Feb 6th (committees) and 15th (meeting). Topics of interest will include the student Housing Action Plan, the University Strategic Plan.

## J. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:30\_\_ pm.

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MOVER: Bradley Balaton SECONDER: Alyssa Kirlin

For (28): Elham Abouei, Bradley Balaton, Taran Dhillon, John Dupuis, Eric Frieling, Rachel Goossen, Claire Gregoire, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Emily Leischner, Nathaniel Lim, Areezo M., Atefeh M.S, Peter Musser, Zeynab Nosrati, Katerina Othonos, Keskine Owusu Poku, Teilhard Paradela, Theresa Pauly, Megan Russell, Ariana Saatchi, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Yangfan Zhang, Lisa Zhu

Motion passed.