

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

A. Attendance

1. Present: Alexa Tanner, Alyssa Kirlin, Amber Shilling, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Arash Shadkam, Ariana Saatchi, Ashenafi Alemu, Claire Preston represented by Mirza Sarwak, Darren Touch, Elham Abouei, Erik Frieling, Farah Deeba, Fapu Duan, Gloria Mellesmoen, Gurjot Singh, Hamed Pouriayevali, John Ede, Joyce Lam represented by Robert France, Jun Sian Lee, Kamaldeep Gill, Karen Thulasi Devendrakuman, Kelsey Yamasaki, Kiana Yau, Lily Takeuchi, Madison Bolger-Munro, Maria Jose Athie Martinez, Megan Holec, Negar Ghahramani, Nicolas Romualdi represented by Arthur Derpren, Omri Wallach, Peter Musser, Philip Karangu, Pouya Rezaeinia, Rahaf Al Assil, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Sebastien Rettie represented by Chris Gubbels, Solomon Atta, Theresa Pauly, Uyen Nguyen, Yangfan Zhang, Victoria Gomez, Christina Wiesmann, John Dupuis
2. Regrets: Arezoo Alemzadeh Mehrizi, Christina Rubino, Joyce Lam, Nicolas Romuladi, Rochelle Sumampong, Sebastien Rettie
3. Absent: 9 Councillors
4. Quorum: 21 Councillors

B. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda

1. The meeting will be called to order at **5:30pm**.
2. BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.
MOVER: Sara I.N. SECONDER: Peter M.

Amber: I have a comment in regards to the outcome of the September meeting. It is not in the minutes, so please put it in right now. We remember that we, as GSS Councillors, have a fiduciary duty to graduate students. I do not think we can end the meeting pre-emptively, by a certain time, to drink beer. I think we need to remember our role as Board of Directors. I don't think that rewarding us with free alcohol is the best way to carry the meeting and perform our duties.

Alyssa: I would like to unseat myself as departmental representative for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology starting Oct. 19, 2018.

RESULT: 25 for

Phil Angel, Fapu Duan, Farah Deeba, Eric Frieling, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki, Yangfan Zhang

C. Introductions

Introductions were made.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. GSS Council minutes for approval:
 - a. Council minutes – Sept. 20th, 2018
2. Committee minutes for approval:
 - a. Code and Policy Committee – Sept 17th, 2018
 - b. Elections Committee – August 23, 2018
 - c. Governance and Accountability – September 18, 2018
 - d. Services Committee – Sept. 17th, 2018

MOVER: Amber S. SECONDER: Arash S.

RESULT: For (25): Elham Abouei, Rahaf al Assil, Farah Deebea, Eric Frieling , Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Hamed Pouriayevali, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki, Yangfan Zhang

Against (1): Fapu Duan

Abstained: Alyssa Kirlin

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

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

b. Questions?

c. Matter #1

Person Responsible: President

Subject Matter: Upcoming Events

Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, VP University and Academic Affairs, presented on behalf of the president, who was absent at the time.

You are welcome to our upcoming events. If you want to sign-up, talk to Maria at the end of Council meeting today.

Ergo Your Workspace, Oct. 19, 12:00–13:00, Thea Koerner House

Constitution writing workshop with Code and Policy Committee, Oct. 23, 2018, 6:00–8:00pm, Thea Koerner House

Councillors Retreat, Nov 17th (sign-up will be available on Fri – Oct. 19th), 8:30–1:00pm, Thea Koerner House

2. Matters for Decision

a. **Seatings**

i. New Councillors

BIRT the following Seatings of new Councillors be approved:

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Karen Thulasi Devendrakumar to be seated as Departmental Representative for Botany.

Kiana Yau to be seated as Departmental Representative for Experimental Medicine.

Larissa Peck to be seated as Departmental Representative for Medical Genetics.

Maria Jose Athie Martinez to be seated as Departmental Representative for Curriculum and Pedagogy.

Megan Holec to be seated as Departmental Representative for English Language and Literatures.

Solomon Atta to be seated as Departmental Representative for Public Policy and Global Affairs.

Xana Menendez Prendes to be seated as Departmental Representative for French, Hispanic and Italian Studies.

Uyen Nguyen to be seated as Departmental Representative for Experimental Medicine.

MOVER: Alexa T.

SECONDER: Amber S.

RESULT: For (26): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Rahaf al Assil, Fapu Duan, Farah Deeba, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Hamed Pouriayeali, Claire Preston, Sebastien Rettie, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

ii. Committee Seatings

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

[Committee descriptions and meeting times here.](#)

BIRT the following Seatings be approved:

Amber S. moved for a 5mins recess so we can organize elections.

Recess.

Alyssa: Instead of recessing as I see that some representatives are in the room, maybe we can ask them to take some time to motivate the work of the committees.

Conny: If we vote yes motion passes; if not committee chairs and candidates will motivate.

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

RESULT: For (4): Negar Ghahramani, Nicole So, Omri Wallach, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

Against (24): Elham Abouei, Rahaf al Assil, Fapu Duan, Farah Deebea, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Lily Takeuchi, Kelsey Yamasaki, Yangfan Zhang

Abstained: Darren Touch

Conny: First on the list is AcEx. Who can motivate?

Jasmine: I have been on the committee and had a great time with data analysis and stuff.

Conny: Any questions?

Alexa: Is there anybody here who can motivate for another person, i.e. someone who is absent.

Sara: Sure, I can. Ty has been the chair of the Committee for a few months and he is gone. Emily is the interim chair now and Ty was the previous VP Academic and has a lot of experience and brings a lot of information to our work. Emily has also been great. I can't motivate for Rory as I don't know him.

John: I can speak for Rory because of his work – as far as his dedication and capacity is concerned he can do the job.

Alyssa: When is Ty back?

Sara: End of January

Alyssa: There is no point in seating someone on a committee that is not going to be active. Would it make more sense to not seat Ty at this Council and seat him when he returns since he is not active. As much as I love and appreciate the work Ty has done.

Conny: Ok we have the following:

A Jasmin

B Teil

C Rory

D Emily

RESULT: Jasmine, Emily and Rory

Alexa: I suggest we do the vote again as people may have pushed A thinking it was Jasmine.

Alyssa moved for a 5mins recess for Speaker to understand voting mechanism, Amber seconded.

5mins recess.

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Conny: Ok, we will have three rounds and each time you vote for your favorite candidate.

Voting takes place.

Conny: Jasmine, Rory and Emily – congratulations on your election!

Jasmine Li-Brubacher, Rory Long, Emily Murphy to be seated as an Ordinary Members to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (3 needed.)

Rahaf Alassil, Lily Takeuchi, Megan Holec, Arianna Saatchi, Maria to be seated as Councillors to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (5 needed.)

Emily Murphy to be seated as a Chair to the **Academic and External Affairs Committee** (1 needed.)

Ashenafi Aboye,_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Elections Committee** (3 needed.)

Theresa Pauly, Rochelle Sumampong, Farah Deebe, Jun Sian Lee,
_____ to be seated as a Councillor to the **Elections Committee** (5 needed.)

Jun Sian Lee to be seated as a Chair to the **Elections Committee** (1 needed.)

Ashenafi Alemu, Kate Sedivy,_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Code and Policy Committee** (3 needed.)

Solomon Atta, Jun Sian Lee,_____ to be seated as Councillors to the **Code and Policy Committee** (5 needed.)

Kate Sedivy to be seated as a Chair to the **Code and Policy Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Executive Oversight Committee** (3 needed.)

_____ to be seated as a Councillor to the **Executive Oversight Committee** (5 needed.)

Alyssa: EOC is to be resealed as it is, and there is 1 vacancy for OM and 1 for Councillor.

Mohammadali Shahavari _____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (3 needed.)

Peter Musser, Victoria Gomez, Madison Bolger-Munro, Uyen Nguyen, to be seated

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

as a Councillor to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (5 needed.)
Nicolas Romualdi to be seated as a Chair to the **Governance and Accountability Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as an Ordinary member to the **GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee** (3 needed.)

_____ to be seated as a Councillor to the **GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee** (5 needed.)

_____ to be seated as Chair to the **GSS/AMS Referendum Ad Hoc Committee**.

Peter: Move to amend the agenda to add Uyen ... I withdraw now – we will just do it later.

Victoria: Motion to unseat myself from this ad hoc committee.

Christina Wiesmann, Jessie Z., Anuradha R. to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **House Finance Committee** (3 needed.)

Nicolas Romuladi, Solomon Atta, Rahaf al Assil, Maria Martinez to be seated as a Councillor to the **House Finance Committee** (5 needed.)

Christina Wiesmann to be seated as a Chair to the **House Finance Committee** (1 needed.)

Parsa Arabi, Soheila Rad, Katherina Othonos to be seated as an Ordinary Member to the **Human Resource Committee** (3 needed.)

Arezo Alemzadeh, Hamed Pouriayevali _____ to be seated as a Councillor to the **Human Resource Committee** (5 needed.)

Rory Long to be seated as a Chair to the **Human Resource Committee** (1 needed.)

Speaker: Anyone wants to speak on behalf of the ordinary member candidates?

Alyssa: I feel comfortable speaking for Katherina, who was a long term Councillor. In the past she served as chair of Harassment and Discrimination Ad Hoc Committee. She has long term experience.

Alexa: So if you wish to abstain this is a double EE. This can be your choice.

Speaker:

Katherina, Soheila and Parsa as ordinary members.

John Dupuis, Andrew Zhang, Henry Walsgrove to be seated as an Ordinary Member

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

to the **Services Committee** (3 needed.)

Erik Frieling, Phil Angel, Joyce Lam, Negar _____ to be seated as a Councillor to the **Services Committee** (5 needed.)

John Dupuis to be seated as a Chair to the **Services Committee** (1 needed.)

_____ to be seated as GSS Council representative to **AMS Council** (2 needed.)

Christina W: I nominate myself for AMS Council and take myself off of the HR Committee.

Alexa Tanner: I also nominate myself to AMS.

MOVER: Alyssa SECONDER: Amber

Result: For (30): Ashenafi Aboye, Rahaf al Assil, Phil Angel, Madison Bolger-Munro, Fapu Duan, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Claire Preston, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

b. Matter #1

Person Responsible: President

Subject Matter: Representation to Graduate Council

Supporting Material: See Supporting Documents – Nominations to Graduate Council

Motion:

WHEREAS GSS membership on Grad Council is renewed each term as mentioned in the by-laws

WHEREAS GSS needs to elect 5 students, plus the VP UAA as an ex-officio member by determining its own procedures for elections

BIRT the GSS appoints Erik Frieling, Darren Touch, Megan Holec, Lily Takeuchi, Yangfan Zhang (5 needed) as the Graduate Council Representatives.

BIFRT the GSS appoints the VP UAA as an ex-officio member of Graduate Council.

MOVER: Alyssa

SECONDER: Darren

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Darren: I want to thank our previous chair Eric and want to motion to continue his time with us. His leadership is superb. We work with GPS – they create policies and decide the curriculum for all graduate students.

Erik: I accept.

RESULT:

For (25): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Madison Bolger–Munro, Fapu Duan, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Joyce Lam, Gloria Mellesmoen, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Anna–Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki, Yangfan Zhang

Abstained: Eric Frieling , Lily Takeuchi

Matter #2

Person Responsible: President

Subject Matter: Chair of Graduate Council Caucus

WHEREAS the GSS Council has appointed representatives to Graduate Council that form the Graduate Council student caucus, and

WHEREAS the Graduate Council student caucus requires a Chair,

BIRT (Lily Takeuchi) is appointed as Chair of the Graduate Council student caucus.

MOVER: Nicole So

SECONDER: Amber Shilling

Arash: I have a question re: the last motion we passed. Is it ok if someone on the election list seconds the motion? Darren seconded the motion, is it ok?

Speaker: It is ok.

Darren: I would like to nominate Lily – she provides amazing leadership and wisdom and will guide us on this lovely ship

RESULT: For (28): Elham Abouei, Rahaf al Assil, Madison Bolger–Munro, Fapu Duan, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Eric Frieling , Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Sara Izadi–Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Sebastien Rettie, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Nicole So, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Anna–Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki

Abstained: Lily Takeuchi

Alyssa: Point of privilege ...

Megan: What is Grad Council?

Lily: It is made up of faculty and student representatives and they meet monthly to discuss graduate student issues.

Megan: Could I be unseated from that?

MOVER: Megan SECONDER: Alyssa

BIRT that Megan Holec is unseated as she did not know what this is about.

Negar: I would like to know who nominated Megan.

John: Megan, you nominated yourself. We have it in the notes.

Megan: I thought that Grad Council is the GSS – sorry!

RESULT: For (24): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Rahaf al Assil, Madison Bolger-Munro, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Nicole So, Lily Takeuchi, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm, Kelsey Yamasaki, Yangfan Zhang
Against (2): Farah Deeba, Omri Wallach

Matter #3

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability ad-hoc Committee and Academic and External Committee

WHEREAS the current terms of reference of the Academic and External Committee establishes that there are 7 Ex Officio members of the committee and,

WHEREAS by Policy 7.1.4 the aforementioned means that the quorum level is 8 members when the committee is fully seated and,

WHEREAS the only Ex Officio members of the Academic and External Committee who regularly attend meetings are the VP Academic and VP External because they are the only Ex Officio members who are actively involved in the business of the committee and,

WHEREAS the committee struggles to reach quorum because absent members don't provide regrets in advance and,

WHEREAS their absence does not impair the committee's ability to discharge its duties as per its Terms of Reference,

BIRT that by special resolution the GSS Council suspends the application of Policy 7.1.4 to the Academic and External Committee effective immediately and until the Council

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

meeting of September 2019 and,

BIFRT the quorum level for meetings of the Academic and External Committee shall be calculated as if policy 7.1.4 were applied to a committee with 2 Ex Officio members for the same period of time and,

BIFRT the GSS Council directs the Academic and External Committee to review its terms of reference and propose an appropriate membership constitution before September 2019.

MOVER: Peter M.

SECONDER: Arash

Alyssa: Making special resolutions to change policy to amend the way AcEx work. Why are we making this by a special resolution? Is it time sensitive? Can this wait for another month to happen via standard resolution?

Peter: They cannot get quorum, so they came to us and asked what to do to bring quorum requirements down. So this is why we drafted a special resolution. They are populated well enough to do business, they just can't. This is why the resolution.

Alyssa: Point of order – wasn't Rahaf on speaker's list?

Rahaf: Can you explain to me what normal resolution is?

Alyssa: The normal way we amend the policy manual – there is an appendix you fill out, send it to council, and post online a week before Council. The details can be found in Policy Manual, if you are interested.

Jun: I would like to know why AcEx has a different policy than regular committees?

Conny: I don't think this is a different policy, it is just the membership.

Arash: What I understand is that there is difficulty reaching quorum – are all other channels exhausted in terms of meeting quorum because changing quorum should be a last resort.

Peter: I would defer to AcEx members. The way they explained it to G&A – they have not been getting regrets from ex officio members and this ties their hands. Unfortunately Roberts Rules does not clarify whether ex officio members count towards quorum. So this is why we decided to make it official that ex officio members do not count towards quorum. This may not be the best long term solution, but we need to do it.

Alexa: Is the Senate and BOG representative one position?

Peter: For ex officio they have the president, VP external and UAA, 1 grad student representative from BOG and Senate, AMS representative lead, and chair of Grad Council.

Alyssa: Motion to amend first and last BIRT clause. Otherwise we will have to do this every month.

Peter: I consider this a friendly amendment.

Speaker: By saying yes when you vote we are suspending meeting quorum for the next

30 days and they are obligated to come up with new rules.

For (18): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Rahaf al Assil, Madison Bolger-Munro, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Alyssa Kirlin, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Alexa Tanner, Kelsey Yamasaki

Matter #4

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability ad-hoc committee

WHEREAS the GSS has carried out a referendum on the question of the creation of a Standing Governance and Accountability Committee and,

WHEREAS the motion was carried by special resolution (671 in favor, 37 against, 57 abstentions) and,

WHEREAS the Governance & Accountability ad-hoc committee, a committee which has substantially similar duties to the recently created standing committee, has created the terms of reference to be appended to the Policy Manual and,

WHEREAS the presented terms of reference have been circulated to GSS Committee and Caucus Chairs, Senators and Executives for review,

BIRT by Special Resolution of the GSS Council that the Policy Manual shall be amended to include section 8.10, titled "The Governance and Accountability Committee" to read as follows:

8.10.1 The Governance and Accountability Committee shall:

- (a) Obtain, create, and maintain resources on best governance practices.
- (b) Create & maintain an up-to-date organizational flow chart and a 'roles and responsibilities' document that shows the relationships between different bodies of the organization and outlines the responsibilities of all individuals and committees.
- (c) Perform an ongoing review of the state of GSS governance to determine where gaps exist in the governance structure, reporting structures, and other aspects of the organization that are relevant to its operation and to achieving its mission. This includes conducting research by consulting with GSS Executives, Councillors, and committee Chairs.
- (d) Provide recommendations on governance improvements to GSS Council.

(e) Oversee the implementation of Council-approved governance recommendations and, when necessary, provide specific recommendations to the Code and Policy Committee on amendments to the GSS Bylaws and Policy Manual.

Recommend to Council the commissioning of an external governance review when deemed in the best interest of the Society. If it has been longer than 5 years since an external review was last performed, this should be brought to Council every academic year, along with the committee's recommendation and rationale.

(f) Inform Council annually on the progress on implementing the GSS strategic plan and ensure that the necessary Special Committee (e.g. ad-hoc committee) is formed in a timely manner to produce successive strategic plans.

(g) Assist standing committees, external caucus representatives, and the FEOO in setting annual goals; inform Council on their progress towards accomplishing those goals at the middle and end of the academic year, or as otherwise laid out in the GSS strategic plan.

When necessary, bring Council's attention to any outstanding governance issues related to committee performance (e.g. not holding meetings, holding non-quorate meetings, not submitting meeting minutes to Council) in order to prompt Council to request committee minutes or re-seat dysfunctional committees, as appropriate, when this function is not being performed.

(h) Recommend multiple bodies so that Council can select an oversight and accountability mechanism to review the Governance & Accountability Committee's annual goals and subsequently evaluate the committee's performance on their goals at least once a year, at or before the January Council meeting, to the satisfaction of Council.

MOVER: Peter M.

SECONDER: Elham

Peter: Just to clarify – this is one of the motions on the referendum that put the GSS in compliance with new BC society's act regulations. Changing the ad hoc committee was proposed at the AGM, but the AGM had a bit of an issue with attendance and did not pass as we were not able to achieve quorum. Between then and now we took into consideration the feedback to our Terms of Reference and we tweaked them. We used the feedback to make the modifications. This has been debated multiple times over the past couple of years. We have reached out to other schools and it is more common than not that they have a standing G&A standing committee.

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

RESULT: For (25): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Madison Bolger-Munro, Farah Deebea, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Kelsey Yamasaki

Ariana: Point of information – is this the same committee discussed at the AGM

Peter: Yes.

Rahaf: Can I ask a question about previous motion?

Speaker: What is your reason to talk backgrounds?

Rahaf: Before deciding whether a committee meets or does not meet quorum do we know when the call was made to meet less than 48h?

Speaker: I will take this question offline – it is very technical and not relevant to motion.

Matter #5

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability ad-hoc committee

WHEREAS the GSS Council has approved the Terms of Reference for the recently created Governance and Accountability Standing Committee and,

WHEREAS the Governance and Accountability ad-hoc committee has substantially similar roles,

BIRT that the following seatings be approved by omnibus:

- Mohammadali Shahsavari and Tebby Lee as Ordinary Members (1 more needed),
- Peter Musser, Madison Bolger-Munro and Nicolas Romualdi as Councillors (2 more needed),
- Nicolas Romualdi as Chair.

MOVER: Peter M.

SECONDER: Omri W.

Alyssa: Point of order: we already sat this committee today ... so why now? The Terms of Reference

Peter: I would recommend that we double check Roberts Rules for that. I think Terms of Reference have to be in place to seat committee members.

Speaker: I think this motion is redundant and I only see that Tebby was not seated.

Peter: I would seek clarification that a committee was created during referendum ...

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Alyssa: Referendum amended the bylaws and then the committee existed, so this works.

Speaker: I think we will have this motion right now to make sure the committee is real.

MOVER: Peter

Amber: Point 7.1.1. of Policy Manual. It does not negate the seating, but it does not say it has to predate the seating. I don't know if that counts out of order of seating.

Peter: I just feel the safe option will be to redo this now and then recommend to CPC to review this.

Victoria: Do people need to reiterate interest in joining the committee?

Speaker: Yes

Victoria G. would like to be reseated.

Uyen N. would like to be reseated.

Arash: Point of information – is everyone seated in previous section present now as some people have left now?

Peter: Yes.

RESULT: For (16): Madison Bolger-Munro, John Ede, Victoria Gomez, Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Pouya Rezaenia, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Alexa Tanner, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

Matter #6

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability ad-hoc committee

WHEREAS the GSS Council has approved the Terms of Reference for the recently created Governance and Accountability Standing Committee and,

WHEREAS the Governance and Accountability ad-hoc committee has substantially similar roles,

WHEREAS members have been seated to the Governance and Accountability Standing Committee and said committee is ready to start its operation,

BIRT that the GSS Council, by Special Resolution, dissolves the Governance and Accountability ad-hoc Committee.

MOVER: Peter M.

SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: For (23): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Rahaf al Assil, Madison Bolger-Munro, Farah Deeba, John Ede, Negar Ghahramani, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez,

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Sara Izadi-Najafabadi, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Alexa Tanner, Omri Wallach

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

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

b. Questions

c. Matter #1

Person Responsible: VP Students

Subject Matter: Headshot

Announcement: We were going to have the off-campus headshot in Jan or Feb, 2019. We are canceling it now because we do not have a significant number of off-campus students attending our events/programs and we are losing a lot of money. We are going to use that money to organize an event that will attract a larger number of students.

Alyssa: Last year it seemed like Arezoo had great success with off-campus programming – why now? Why are you cancelling the event now – as opposed to advertise it now and cancel it based on sign-ups?

Pouya: We are cancelling because if we don't, we have to pay for it now and we will end up losing a lot of money. The Communications Manager is Ben – he is doing the same thing as last year. I can't go to off campus events and know why they do not fill up.

Alyssa: Why can't you go to off-campus events?

Pouya: I have been very busy as I am a member of VP Students Search Committee.

Amber: Have you been in contact with Grasspods as they have been very active in the history of GSS. If you are planning to attend reach out to them and make sure whatever communication you have going through Ben is directed at them.

Pouya: I was in contact with Jasleen and she has been travelling a lot.

Rahaf: Would you be able to come up with 1 or 2 justifications why the off-campus

students are not interested in this? Based on this you can organize another event for them.

Pouya: Problem is not the headshot it is the other programs we are having for off-campus students. This is not an important event.

Sara: I kind of support Pouya and because I am an off-campus student and at BC Children's we have headshots for free, while GSS charges us.

Alexa: Have you ever had a non-athletic activity off campus?

Pouya: French classes.

Alyssa: To respond to Sara – students at a children's hospital get a lot more programming than other students.

Pouya: I have been told that even at VGH you have free headshots.

Gurjot: There are not a lot of people, who do not attend even if advertising is great. I know Pouya has done a great job, but there are not that many students involved there.

Victoria: I could see your reasoning for why you would want to cut this. Can you please direct the future event at off-campus students? Basically, I would rather have the event still be for off-campus students.

John: I see space to get more effort in the off-campus community.

Amber: I would recommend to reach out to off-campus students as they are very active. I would encourage us to be far more creative before continuing to cancel things. I am not interested in sports, or French. I think it is unfortunate that we don't have a Graspods rep here and would like to see a response from them on what you are proposing.

Pouya: I don't know what you are interested in, but it would be great if you could send me an email and suggest a few things.

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 October 2019:

- **Electrical and Computer Engineering Graduate Studies Association**
- **School of Journalism Students' Association**
- **UBC Experimental Medicine Graduate Society**

MOVER: Peter SECONDER: Arash

RESULT: For (26): Elham Abouei, Ashenafi Aboye, Phil Angel, Madison Bolger-Munro, Farah Deebea, John Ede, Kamaldeep Gill, Victoria Gomez, Philip Karangu, Alyssa Kirlin, Joyce Lam, Jun Sian Lee, Gloria Mellesmoen, Peter Musser, Theresa Pauly, Pouya Rezaenia,

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Nicolas Romualdi, Ariana Saatchi, Arash Shadkam, Amber Shilling, Gurjot Singh, Nicole So, Alexa Tanner, Darren Touch, Omri Wallach, Anna-Catharina Wilhelm

... Next page: Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

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 | iv. Graduate Council |
| ii. VP External Relations | v. Senate |
| iii. Academic & External Affairs Committee | vi. Board of Governors |

b. Questions?

Victoria: For VP UAA – at April Council meeting, there was a motion passed asking a few folks to make an inquiry about the lost graduate student space?

Sara: The first month I was seated Taran and myself met UBC's Provost and they assured that they will re-design the whole library thing and they will contact us for opinion. We are waiting, but we will follow up.

c. Matter #1

2. Matters for Decision

a. Matter #1:

... Next page: Matters for Discussion

H. Matters for Discussion

1. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society:

Group responsible: FEOO

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation Description: GSS Financial Reporting August 2018

Relevant Materials: GSS Financial Reporting August 2018.ppt

We don't have September update as we are doing audit.

FEOO presented departmental budget figures.

CPIF: Over \$230+.

Jun: CPIF is used to buy mainly equipment. My question is why is VP Students is losing so much money?

Philip: These are for August.

Arash: These quarterly reports honestly don't tell much because they budget for the whole year and then things don't add up. If an event does not happen in quarter 1 and happens in quarter 2, things mess up. Maybe for next year we should try to be more representative for when we are projecting quarterly budgets. When you are reporting numbers, they don't really add up. I am wondering if you are considering making these projections more accurate?

Phillip: We can't give actuals ... for instance hiring a GM in January, the money is still there; the changes of how we do commercial events – we budget for x amount, but we don't get it; but the FEOO has to report monthly to Council about what is in and out. I am looking at it with GM and accountant so we can become accurate in how we do things. And these do affect how numbers change every month.

Solomon: I have been a budget officer for past 5 years in Ghana. I will propose that you indicate yearly budget and indicate how much you have spent, the percentage, a particular month's budget and show if you have overspent. When does the budget start?

Philip: May 1st.

Solomon: If you don't use something you cannot push it for next year.

Phillip: Yes this is why CPIF is accumulating.

Group responsible: Elections Committee

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: Highlight the results in the GSS special referendum in September 2018.

Proposed objective: Officially announce the results of the GSS special referendum in September 2018.

Relevant materials: Presentation slides [Link:

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wLeZT1tXPVYQ6A2UiwSxjOj7V-o8qcJiA1-D1SoeEHU/edit?usp=sharing>

Jun, Farah, Theresa presented the results of GSS special referendum.

No questions.

Group Responsible: Governance & Accountability ad-hoc Committee

Presenter: Peter M.

Title: Goal Progress Review 2017/18 Cycle

Description: The committee will present on the results of the end of term goal progress review.

Relevant materials: Presentation not submitted yet.

Arash: What is the timeline of these reports?

Peter: This is representing Sept. 2017 to now because we started smart goal process around October.

Ashenafi: Great job, thank you! Who will be checking your committee performance? Because I am CPC chair and there were some problems during my tenure and now we are in a good place. From your presentation, I believe at least two of our goals are well done. I am not defending, but giving you the information. I believe the feedback that comes to our committee is a bit delayed – maybe you need more members or more time.

Peter: Who watches the watchmen – if you look at ToR ... we are looking for an external organization to GSS to check us. The other angle – human bias is natural, so to avoid that ... for example I was on HR for 6 months, I removed myself from review. Speaking to CPC goals directly the sticking point is that the goals we have are for a year and the goals we got, we got at the end of the year. We think they were a solid foundation, but as long terms goal go it is not feasible that they are long-term goals. We are happy to talk to you one-on-one or with the committee about how to clean them up.

Solomon: Do you actually allow committee to have a preliminary view of your assessment?

Peter: We have a shared google doc that we sent to the committee chair, so ideally a committee chair should fill it in with its committee members. All feedback we give shows up in this document.

Philip: When we signed the endorsement we had some comment in regards to sec 10 ... the question that came out is the financial or how they will be reporting to Council. How external assessor will report back to Council? Also financial implications?

Peter: ABSC and Think Grad and organizations of organizations – we will be reaching out to members as we know that they have a G&A ... It is a good point – is it impartial that we are reviewed by an organization we pay dues to, but ...

Jun: I think G&A has made GSS function better as we have a unified set of goals.

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

Peter: Thank you! At the end of the day like all committees we are subordinate to Council. But there were requests for external review and we think this is something we could do without undue burden. So much of what we have done goes to Natalie – Nicolas has done a great job of picking up the slack.

Arash: Do you remember to whom you talked to about AMS Caucus and when?

Peter: I can double check with Nicolas – we usually send an email to committee chairs.

Madison: Nicolas reached out to Darren on Sept. 14

2. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community:

3. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics:

Group responsible: CASA (VP External) (i.e. presenter/committee)

Presentation time: 10 minutes

Presentation description: CASA and Graduate Students

Proposed objective: Presentation

Relevant materials: Presentation not submitted yet.

Amber: There is funding – I do not know if it is an increase or continuation; what work is going to increase the actual amount of tri-council funding as it is not keeping up with students who live in Vancouver?

Presenter: Increase research funding directly for student grants. We would like to see funding go to 2011 amounts with an increase with inflation. We are going to federal government in November.

Peter: I was excited to hear you are lobbying for open access – talk briefly with whom CASA lobbies for open access

Presenter: We sit on the copyright review submission that is happening ... lobbying indigenous services and tri-council agencies ... come out with open access material that students can access. And not everybody's libraries are as good as UBC. Advocate on a variety of different angles.

Philip: How are international students represented? Sometimes research grants are given only to Canadians. How is membership distributed among the 22 members on our committee? How much does UBC receive in terms of these grants?

Presenter: Advocating on article 91 – immigration and refugee act which prevents international student offices to provide immigration info to students ... as a result students are getting misinformed, have to pay high legal fees; work-study permits are also an issue ... students cannot work unless they have a designated study permit and so

GSS Council Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018 | Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest | 5:30pm

international students cannot access these opportunities on their student visa.

Philip: Do you have a rough figure how much UBC received from the 45 mill?

Presenter: Money comes back to UBC and UBC gets a lot of funding. I don't know, but I can look into this number.

I. Adjournment

1. **BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:48 pm.
MOVER: Amber SECONDER: Arash

Notices

2. Notice of Next Meeting
 - a. *Date:* November 15th, 2018
 - b. *Time:* 5:30 pm
 - c. *Location:* Michael KingsMill Forum, AMS Nest, UBC Vancouver
 - d. *Food:* Sandwiches will be provided.
3. Notice of Unseatings

Alyssa Kirlin to be unseated as Departmental Representative for **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**, starting Oct. 19, 2018.

Ashenafi Aboye to be unseated as Departmental Representative for **Education Studies**.

Ashenafi Aboye to be unseated as Committee Chair for **Code and Policy Committee**.

Ashenafi Aboye to be unseated as Councillor from the **Elections Committee**.

Emily Leischner to be unseated as Departmental Representative for **Anthropology**.

Eric Ottenbacher to be unseated as Departmental Representative for **Central, Eastern and North European Studies**.

Mohammad Chaudhry to be unseated as Departmental Representative for **Chemistry**.

Mohammad Chaudhry to be unseated as Councillor from **Academic and External Affairs Committee**.

Moutoshi Saha to be unseated as Departmental Representative for **Civil Engineering**.
4. **GSS Updates** (~100 words, sent in advance and included in the final agenda)
 - a. Strategic Theme 3: Our Graduate Student Society
 - i. **President**
Staff Update

ii. Financial & Executive Oversight Officer

•

iii. Executive Oversight Committee

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iv. Governance & Accountability ad hoc Committee

Goal progress review has been carried out for all standing committees , except the Executive which is purview of EOC and the results will be presented at the Council meeting.

The committee has collaborated with the Academic and External committee to address a policy issue regarding composition and quorum of said committee. A motion is being brought to Council.

The committee has circulated terms of reference for the Standing Governance and Accountability Committee among Committee Chairs, Executives and the FEEO. The feedback is being incorporated and the terms of reference are being brought to Council to be appended to the Policy Manual. Motions for seatings and dissolution of the ad-hoc committee have also been sent to be added to the agenda.

v. House Finance Committee

vi. Code & Policy Committee

•

vii. Human Resources Committee

•

viii. AMS Council

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ix. Elections Committee

Elections Committee has successfully organized the special Referendum from Sept 10-23 to make essential updates to the GSS Bylaws and Constitution. Voter turnout was 765, thus Quorum of 600 was achieved. All three questions in the referendum were passed with over 90% voted yes. Elections committee is currently reviewing its SMART goals from 2017-2018.

b. Strategic Theme 2: Graduate Student Community

i. VP Students

•

ii. Services Committee

•

c. Strategic Theme 1: Graduate Student Academics

i. VP University & Academic Affairs

-
- ii. **VP External Relations**
-
- iii. **Academic & External Affairs Committee**
-
- iv. **Graduate Council**
-
- v. **Senate**
-
- vi. **Board of Governors**

The September cycle meetings were held in Kelowna on Sept 27th, including a joint Board and Senate Chairs meeting. We received a presentation from the AMS on their advocacy goals, discussed metrics for the Strategic Plan, and UBC Okanagan campus planning. The full docket and webcast can be found at <https://bog.ubc.ca/>. The next meeting of the Board will be Committees on November 26th.