



ATTENDANCE

Present: Jimin Jung, Aaron Loewen, Simarjeet Nagpal, Fiana Kawane, Ali Khaleji, Tonje Mlyneux, Olivia Tsihlias, Sam Kenston, Tobi Olowoyo, Hannah Phelps, Loulou Cai, Felix Hong, Seja Elgadi, Abhishek Somanagoudar, Yuting Lin, Devarsh Bhonde, Franziska Mey, Mehmet Saplan, Nick Phin, Nurul Shishir, Gayatri Gopalan.

Regrets: Violeta Fabiani

Absent:

Quorum: 16 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at 5:32 pm.

1.2 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Aaron

Second: Abhishek

Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Thank you everyone for attending. I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered today in the unceded, ancestral and traditional territory of the Musqueam people.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUTGOING EXECUTIVES

President: Today, we would like to take a moment to express our appreciation for the outgoing executives and all that they have accomplished. Their hard work has brought about new initiatives, such as the Housing and Security Eight (HSA), which has never been implemented in the GSS before. This program has already benefited around 90 people, with each applicant receiving approximately 1,000. As graduate students, we truly appreciate the value of this program.

Furthermore, this year's orientation events have seen an impressive participation of over 300 attendees, with a particularly high representation from individuals with disabilities. The current executive has done an excellent job, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize their achievements and thank them for their service. As we approach GSS's gala and awards night on the 29th of April, we encourage all counselors, chairs, and committee members to purchase tickets and attend. This event will be a new experience as it will also



serve as the night of the handover ceremony, where the new executive will take over from the current one. It is a perfect opportunity to compliment and celebrate the hardworking outgoing executives. Once again, we would like to express our gratitude to the current executive team for their dedication and effort over the past year. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

2 EXPEDIENT MATTERS

At the discretion of the President, the following are deemed urgent matters for Council and are presented at the beginning of Council:

2.1 SMART GOALS

Responsible: Jimin Jung (member of the Governance & Accountability Committee)

Time: 20 minutes

Description: SMART Goals 2022-2023 First Report

Objective: To present GSS committee/caucus SMART goals for 2022-2023

Relevant materials: [Presentation](#)

Discussion

Sam: If you have any questions, please contact the chair of the G&A Committee, Sena, via email.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

- [March 16th, 2023](#)

Mover: Aaron

Second: Tonje

Result: Carried

3.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES



BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	March 26 th 2023	Human Resources Committee:	
Code & Policy Committee:	Feb 27 th 2023, March 20 th 2023	AMS Caucus:	March 14 th , 2023
Engagement & Elections Committee:	March 24 th 2023	Graduate Council:	
Executive Committee:	March 3 rd , 2023	Health and Dental Plan Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee		All-Chairs:	March 10 th , 2023
Governance & Accountability Committee:	March 15 th 2023, March 29 th 2023, April 12 th 2023	House Finance Committee:	

Mover: Nick

Second: Sam

Result: Carried

4 SEATINGS

4.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Simarjeet Nagpal	School of Community & Regional Planning

Mover: Franziska

Second: Loulou

Result: Carried



4.2 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.

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

BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Faculty of Arts Council	Fiana Kawane	Representative	2
Graduate Council Caucus		Representative	0
AMS Caucus		Representative	0
Health & Dental		Representative	0

Mover: Devarsh

Seconded: Aaron

Result: Carried

4.3 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors shall endeavor to sit on at least one committee as per Policy 6.2.2.

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

BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy		Councillor	4
	Aaron Loewen	Ordinary Member	1
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
Executive Oversight		Councillor	4
	Aaron Loewen	Ordinary Member	1



Governance & Accountability		Councillor	5
	Jimin Jung	Ordinary Member	1
House Finance		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	0
Human Resources		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	0

Mover: Devarsh

Seconded: Muxi

Result: Carried

DISCUSSION

Devarsh: To provide a quick overview of our current budget allocation, 65% of the funds, which amounts to around \$650,000, are designated for fixed costs such as salaries and rent. This leaves a limited budget of approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 for events. Discussions are ongoing how to adjust the allocation to increase funding for events. Furthermore, the GSS owns several properties such as the code in this book and the volume, which generate almost \$100,000 in rental income. We are currently in the process of renewing the leases with each of these companies and negotiating the terms of the agreements. We would like to encourage all present members to join our committee as there are several openings available, including roles for ordinary members. We urge you to get involved and contribute to our efforts.

Ruth: I'm Ruth from the Elections Committee, and I want to clarify our responsibilities. Our main tasks include organizing events and managing elections, and we work closely with the biggest students and Event Manager to ensure smooth operations. Currently, the committee is open to accepting new councillors who are interested in event planning and organizing activities such as graduate events. If you have a passion for these areas and want to contribute to our efforts, we would love to have you join us. There is ample space for new members, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you are interested. Thank you.

Nick: I'm Nick, and I serve as the Chair of EOC. Our main responsibility is to oversee the transition process of the executive, as our name suggests. We also assist with other related tasks. Unfortunately, we have recently lost some members, and as a result, we are currently unable to meet quorum. This means that we can discuss matters, but we cannot make proper decisions or vote. To address this issue, I would like to encourage more members to join the committee. Any additional support would be greatly appreciated. As an added bonus, members who join the committee will receive UberEATS coupons.

Jimin: Please join the G&A committee.



4.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair Seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee
Human Resources Chair	Yuting (Lily) Liu

Mover: Human Resources
Committee

Result: Carried

5 MATTERS FOR DECISION

5.1 AMS CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Group Responsible: Code & Policy Committee

Description: A motion to update policies regarding AMS Caucus membership.

Proposed Objective: To pass policy amendments.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Policy Revision Form - AMS Caucus Membership.docx](#)

WHEREAS after the 2023 AMS Referendum, the AMS general membership approved changes to AMS Council Membership,

WHEREAS the changes affected the number of representatives that the GSS may send to the AMS Council based on new criteria,

WHEREAS the changes must be implemented as soon as possible,

BIRT the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - AMS Caucus Membership.docx" be approved as presented.

MOVER: Code & Policy
Committee

RESULT:

6 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1 GSS WORK LEARN POSITIONS



Presenter: Muxi Guo (HR Chair)

Time: 5 minutes

Description: GSS 2023 WLS position Hiring progress report

Objective: To present an overview and progress of the GSS 2023 WLS position Hiring

Relevant materials: [Presentation](#)

7 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

7.1 EXECUTIVES

7.1.1 President:

- GSS Internal meetings and services
- Execs and HR chair Interviewed 27 candidates for 9 WL positions
- Working with Vivian to streamline the pay of WL students with 1+ years at GSS
- The ballroom renewal deal is finalized. Thanks to the support provided by HF chair
- Koerner's pub renewal continuing
- UBC Wide meeting:
- Had a meeting with Ainsley and Samantha to discuss GLC Phase 2
- Attended the G+PS meeting to discuss Grad Students Affordability task force
- External
- Attended UBC alumni quarterly meeting

7.1.2 Financial Officer

7.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

7.1.4 VP External Relations

- Meeting with Stantec for career opportunities



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- Meeting with McKinsey for career opportunities
 - Think Grad meeting – Canada wide graduate student association
 - ISV Committee
 - Presidential search committee
 - Hiring CV reviews
 - Conducting Interviews
 - Contacting Federal government to schedule future lobby
 - Met with Migrant Student Union for MSP Elimination for international students

7.1.5 VP Students

7.2 COMMITTEES

7.2.1 Academic & External Committee

- We are formulating SMART Goals and connecting with incoming Executives to plan the work to be done over the next year.

7.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has worked on changing AMS Caucus membership to align with AMS Council changes, drafted Position Statement Policy changes and will be working to collect more information before bringing to Council, and has updated our SMART goals with comments from G&A

7.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

- Finalised SMART goals document for the year.
Conducted a forest therapy walk for graduate students in April.

7.2.4 Executive Committee

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7.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

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7.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

- SMART goals and KPIs

7.2.7 House Finance Committee

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7.2.8 Human Resources

7.2.9 AMS Caucus

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7.2.10 Graduate Council Caucus

7.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

7.3.1 Senators:

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7.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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8 NOTICES

8.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, May 18th 2023 at 5:30 pm

Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum- AMS Nest 4th floor

8.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

Aaron Loewen was unseated as Graduate Representative of the Cell & Developmental Biology Program

Aaron Loewen was unseated as Councillor of the Code & Policy Committee



Aaron Loewen was unseated as Councillor of the Executive & Oversight Committee

Aaron Loewen was unseated as Councillor of the Human Resources Committee.

Marco Sotres was unseated as Councillor of the Governance & Accountability Committee

9 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Mover: Sam

Seconder: Aaron

Result: Carried