



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Abhishek Somanagoudar, Alex Babin, Ali Khageki, Atul Aranvidaksha, Cara James, Daemon Cline, Lily Liu, Isha Gill, Jonah Berean-Dutcher, Tonje Molyneux, Mehmet, Nick Phin, Ogonyeka, Sam Kenston, Sabbir Hossai, Stephen Odoi, Conny Lin, Olivia Tsihlias, Violeta Fabiani, Devarsh Bhonde, Fiana Kawane.

**Regrets:**

**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 5:58 pm.

### 1.2 AGENDA ADOPTION

**BIRT** the agenda be adopted as presented.

**Mover:** Nick

**Second:** Tonje

**Result:** Carried

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**President:** Today we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. And this place has been a place of learning for several years and we do acknowledge the opportunity to come and learn here and gather here. Thank you very much.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

**BIRT** the following GSS Council minutes be approved:



- [May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023](#)

**Mover:** Olivia

**Second:** Sam

**Result:** Carried

## 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

**BIRT** the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

<b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b>		<b>Human Resources Committee:</b>	May 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023
<b>Code &amp; Policy Committee:</b>	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	<b>AMS Caucus:</b>	May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<b>Engagement &amp; Elections Committee:</b>		<b>Graduate Council:</b>	
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	May 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	<b>Health and Dental Plan Caucus:</b>	
<b>Executive Oversight Committee</b>		<b>All-Chairs:</b>	May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b>	May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	<b>House Finance Committee:</b>	May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 ; May 18 <sup>th</sup> 2023; June 6 <sup>th</sup> 2023

**Mover:** Lily

**Second:** Stephen

**Result:** Carried

## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 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:

<b>Committee/Caucus</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Vacancies</b>
Faculty of Arts Council		Representative	1



Graduate Council Caucus		Representative	1
AMS Caucus		Representative	0
Health & Dental		Representative	0

**Mover:** Tonje

**Second:** Stephen

**Result:** Carried

## 3.2 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	2
		Ordinary Member	1
Code & Policy		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	0
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	4
	Xiaohan Jia	Ordinary Member	1
Executive Oversight		Councillor	5
		Ordinary Member	2
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	5
		Ordinary Member	0
House Finance		Councillor	3
		Ordinary Member	1
Human Resources		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	0

**Mover:** Fiana

**Second:** Tonje

**Result:** Carried



## 4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 4.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION RECOGNITION

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

**BIRT** the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in June 2024:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science (EOAS) Graduate Students Council	Cara James
Library and Archival Studies Student Association	Allison Mander-Wionzek
Zoology Graduate Student Association	Margaret Slein

**MOVER:** VP Students

**SECONDER:** Devarsh

**RESULT:** Carried

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

### 5.1 BYLAW REVISION – COUNCIL PROXIES

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** A motion to include an item in the next referendum/AGM regarding proxies at Council meetings.

**Objective:** To bring a motion to the next GSS referendum and/or AGM

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Bylaw Revision Form - Council Proxies.pdf](#)



**WHEREAS** the recent changes made to the BC Societies Act prohibit the designation of proxies at meetings of directors,

**WHEREAS** the GSS Council is a meeting of directors,

**WHEREAS** the Bylaws currently allow for proxies at Council meetings,

**WHEREAS** a Bylaw change must be approved by Council to send to an Annual General Meeting or referendum,

**BIRT** the following item be included in the next referendum and/or Annual General Meeting of the GSS, whichever comes first:

## BYLAW AMENDMENT - COUNCIL PROXIES

**Explanation:** Recent changes to the BC Societies Act have prohibited the use of proxies at meetings of directors, which include the GSS Council. Our bylaws currently allow for proxies and therefore must be changed to align with the BC Societies Act.

**Supporting Documents:** [Bylaw Revision Form - Council Proxies.pdf](#)

### MOTION:

**WHEREAS** the recent changes made to the BC Societies Act prohibit the designation of proxies at meetings of directors,

**WHEREAS** the GSS Council is a meeting of directors,

**WHEREAS** the Bylaws currently allow for proxies at Council meetings,

**BIRT** the changes listed in "Bylaw Revision Form - Council Proxies.pdf" be made to the Bylaws and Policy Manual.

## DISCUSSION

**Aaron:** So I'll just say a couple of words on what this is. This is a bylaw revision. So we to change our bylaws, we have to send an item to an AGM or referendum basically to have our ordinary members or the general graduate student population vote on these changes. And what this is a bylaw change that will prohibit the use of proxies in council. And the reason for this is that the BC society's act recently made has enforced a change that prevents us from being able to use proxies in our council due to it being a meeting of directors. So this change this change while we're currently using it, in fact, as our bylaws are against what it current. Our bylaws go against what the BC societies act says at the moment, we have to make a change to kind of align the two and this is the first and only step in doing that. So I strongly encourage voting guests including us in the next AGM or referendum

**MOVER:** Code & Policy  
Committee

**RESULT:** Carried

## 5.2 AMS CAUCUS EXPANSION

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, AMS Caucus

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

**Proposed Objective:** To discuss policy amendments.



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**Time:** 15 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form - AMS Caucus Expansion.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the AMS Caucus currently only allows for AMS Representatives to be seated on the Caucus,

**WHEREAS** the AMS Caucus has previously benefitted from having additional members on the caucus in supporting roles,

**WHEREAS** the current policies allow for expansion of these caucuses provided they are listed in the policy manual,

**BIRT** the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - AMS Caucus Expansion.pdf" be approved.

**MOVER:** Code & Policy  
Committee

**RESULT:** Carried

## DISCUSSION

**Aaron:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. So this, this policy change is to expand our AMS caucus. So currently, our AMS caucus is composed of three members, these three members are representatives that we elect from our body to represent us at the AMS Council. And what this is, what this policy change is to do is to or it's intended to expand upon the MS caucus so that ordinary or counselor, ordinary members or counselors may be seated as well in this caucus, and these members will be there to provide support for the three representatives to accomplish their various goals that they have. This is previously that the reason why we're also doing this is that previously the AMS caucus has enlisted the help of other members to fulfill their goals previously and this is just to formalize these positions. So there will be at least policy passes three members that are representatives and three members that are comprised of either ordinary members or coucillors.

## 5.3 HRC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

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**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, Human Resources Committee

**Description:** A motion to update policies regarding the professional development fund for GSS staff members.

**Proposed Objective:** To discuss policy amendments.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form - HRC Professional Development Fund.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the professional development fund is currently only available for full-time staff members of the GSS,  
**WHEREAS** there are opportunities to support and develop our part-time and Worklearn students that would benefit the GSS,

**WHEREAS** the HR Committee has approved changes to the HR Manual that would expand upon this program to part-time and Worklearn students,

**BIRT** the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - HRC Professional Development Fund.pdf" be approved.



**MOVER:** Code & Policy  
Committee

**RESULT:**

## DISCUSSION

**Aaron:** This policy change is in collaboration with the Human Resources Committee. What this basically will do is expand upon our current professional development program that we have for full time staff. So currently we are the GSS provides funding for our full time staff to undertake training or education that will better will not only improve their ability to perform their tasks within the with the GSS but further them in other ways. And we are and HRC has been in talks with us and eight Jeff to expand upon this and allow our part time and work learn staffs also have chance access port a partial or a part of these funds so with this change work learn students and part time staff may be able to apply for this as to subsidize part of their training outside of UBC courses

### 5.4 TRANSFER CPIF FUNDS FROM CHEQUING ACCOUNT TO CASHABLE GIC

**Group Responsible:** House Finance Committee

**Description:** A motion to transfer Capital Project Improvement Fund (CPIF) funds from the chequing account to cashable GIC at 4.25% interest rate

**Proposed Objective:** To discuss the proposed motion.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**WHEREAS** the bank balance in the CPIF chequing account is \$302,172 as of June 6, 2023

**WHEREAS** the GSS bylaw state that the CPIF funds can only be used for capital projects but does not specify the type of bank accounts they should be placed in and the redeemable GICs provide a guaranteed rate of return wherein the principal amount is not affected (unlike stocks or mutual funds)

**WHEREAS** the HF Committee notes that inflation in Canada is at an all-time high, and it is important to protect the 'value' of money of the GSS funds that are available

**WHEREAS** the HF Committee has approved the transfer of \$150,000 from the CPIF chequing account to a cashable GIC of 4.25% interest upon consultation with the financial advisor of GSS' banking services provider

**BIRT** the GSS Council directs the Finance Officer to transfer \$150,000 from the CPIF chequing account to a **cashable** GIC at 4.25% interest rate

**MOVER:** HF Committee

**RESULT:** Carried



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## DISCUSSION

**Devarsh:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. So just for everyone's context, the simplest point that we have has roughly around \$300,000. So this is basically the capital projects fund. What it means is that the money that is there in the separate fund can only be used for capital projects. Capital Projects example is, for example, the renovation that is happening at the GSEs building, that's an example of the capital capital project. So, as a part of our policies or bylaws, it is required that the CIP funds be kept in a separate bank account, which we have currently kept in a separate checking account. But the problem with keeping the money in a checking account is that we do not earn any interest on that. And with the inflation at an all time high, which is roughly around 7%. Right now, we are effectively losing the value of money that we have. The what the House Finance Committee has proposed is that half of that money that is definitely 150 \$1,000 will move to you will move to a cacheable DLC so that at any point of time we need to get through it, it is available, but at least we'll get some interest rate on that. So this motion basically they live to that. And yeah, I would recommend everyone to please vote in favor of it.

## 6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

### 6.1 EXECUTIVES

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#### 6.1.1 President:

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#### 6.1.2 Financial Officer

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#### 6.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

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#### 6.1.4 VP External Relations

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#### 6.1.5 VP Students

Concluded participation in UBC search committee for hiring Managing Director for Career Centre.

Working in collaboration with G + PS in preparation (programming and planning) for GLC lounge, and Grad-start (orientation activities)





## 6.2 COMMITTEES

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### 6.2.1 Academic & External Committee

### 6.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

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CPC has been discussing amendments to executive transition, AMS Caucus composition, HR Committee policy updates, and rules surrounding proxies

### 6.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

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### 6.2.4 Executive Committee

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### 6.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

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### 6.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

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- SMART goals: (1) dep rep, (2) GSS website updates, (3) KPI automation

### 6.2.7 House Finance Committee

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- - Approved the 1-year lease agreement with Sauders for the GSS Ballroom for \$112,000
- - Approved pay rate increase for one WL student who has been with GSS for over one year based on the rate provided to other individuals with similar experience
- - Approved relocation of \$150,000 from the CPIF chequing account (total value ~\$300,000) to a redeemable GIC (which can be withdrawn at any time) to match the inflation rate and avoid financial loss
- - Discussed financial opportunities with onboarding food outlets and vending machines for the GLC project

### 6.2.8 Human Resources

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New implement of HR Committee's Terms of Reference



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## 6.2.9 AMS Caucus

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## 6.2.10 Graduate Council Caucus

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## 6.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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### 6.3.1 Senators:

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### 6.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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## 7 NOTICES

### 7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

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**Date:** Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Online via MS Teams

### 7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

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- Tej Shah was unseated from the House Finance Committee as ordinary member
- Claire Thorimbert was unseated as Graduate Representative from Anthropology

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:40 pm.



**GRADUATE  
STUDENT SOCIETY**  
UBC VANCOUVER

# GSS Council Minutes

Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | Online via MS Teams | 5:30 pm.

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**Mover:** Fiana

**Second:** Tonje

**Result:** Carried