



## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Abhishek Somanagoudar, Cindi Shi, India Coates, Iraj Hamani, Isa Matuvo, Ramlogan Sowamber, Wenbin Liu, Alex Babin, Ali Khageki, Atul Aranvidaksha, Cara James, Lily Liu, Isha Gill, 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 6:00 pm.

### 1.2 AGENDA ADOPTION

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

**Mover:** Sam

**Second:** Aaron

**Result:** Carried

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**President:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much everybody here today we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. This place has been a place of learning for several years. And we are honored to be gathered here today. I hope we will reflect on this and understand what this means for us and do our fair share in the reconciliation process. Whilst we are here and UBC Thank you very much. Thank you.

## INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

### 1.2 FINANCIAL OFFICER APPOINTMENT

**Responsible:** Sam Kenston, GSS President; Governance and Accountability Committee



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**Description:** Regular election and appointment of the Financial Officer by Council

**Objective:** Hold election and appoint the Financial Officer

**Relevant Materials:** Candidates' bios

**WHEREAS** Bylaw 8.2.2 states that "the Financial Officer will be elected at the July council meeting and take office on August 31<sup>st</sup>", and

**WHEREAS** the position of Financial Officer has been advertised, and

**WHEREAS** Council has reviewed the statements and heard from all candidate(s) for the FO position,

**BIRT** GSS Council elects **Abhishek Somanagoudar** to the position of Financial Officer, to take office on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**Mover:** Devarsh

**Second:** Tonje

**Result:** Carried

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## DISCUSSION

Candidates: Abhishek Somanagoudar, Aisha Eldeeb, Cindi Shi, Farhad Abbasi, India Coates, Iraj Hamani, Isa Matuvo, Natalia Kaprelova, Ramlogan Sowamber, Rojini Kathiravel, Sahar Sattari, Shobowale Bisola, Wenbin Liu

**Abhishek:** Dear Madam Speaker, and esteemed council members, executors and others for providing me the opportunity to present. I acknowledge, and I'm grateful to live and study on the land of ancestral and unceded territory of Musqueam people. As a current second year Master's student in mechanical engineering, and having co-founder to startups, I am thrilled to express my keen interest and eagerness to be re-nominated for this position of financial officer at GSS. During my time in financial officers at GSS, I have demonstrated my commitment to financial excellence by achieving five SMART goals surpassing the norm set by EOC. I would like to highlight some of them. I streamlined GSS accounting process by migrating to an online system for enhanced efficiency, updated financial procedures and created accounting training videos for up to date practices facilitated collaboration with entrepreneurship UBC to foster entrepreneurial and organization skills of GSS. Working on migrating GSS banking account to climate resilient and sustainable banking systems, which aligns with GSS values are also contributed to financial transparency is to audit and increase in revenue from ballroom rentals and GLC vending machines. Looking ahead, I have exciting initiatives planned, including seeking additional funds for a GLC project, which is our graduate Life Center project coming up, which will be inaugurated next term, forming strategic partnerships and exploring new income stream to commercial bookings and catering. In conclusion, I'm passionate about GSS and its impact on the graduate student committee. Community. I firmly believe that my dedication and track record as financial officers make me the ideal candidate and renomination candidate for renomination. Thank you for considering my candidacy and I'm happy to address any of your questions.



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**Cindy:** My name is Cindy, and I am a master's student in bioinformatics. And I have a very dedicated and adaptable student with the track record of leadership and organizational experience in various roles. And I'm confident that my skills and experiences make me a strong candidate for this position. I'm in my role as a workshop director with Project pulse Vancouver. I have been responsible for developing comprehensive partnership, sponsorship and media release packages to broaden the reach of my organization and provide support for on two conferences in total, serving more than 100 high school students. Although my roles did not have a direct financial aspect, the experience of managing resources and understanding the dynamic of nonprofit organizations have equipped me with a keen sense of budgeting and the efficient allocation of resources that I think are crucial skills for the role of financial officer. And if I were to be elected, I am very committed to learning about the position and working with all members To start the council to ensure that the policies of the council is being met and we can deliver a better experience for graduate students at UBC.

**India:** Hello, I'm India Coates and I'm a Master's of management student and I'm currently working in corporate banking at RBC. I'll be starting to talk a little bit about my experience, I mean myself, and then a little bit about my experience, and what I hope to bring to the GSS looking forward. During my undergraduate and graduate experience, I had been an on various executive teams working on incident financial officer operations and as VP finance, I have been involved in the Panhellenic Cancer Council PSSA moot court, B plus an executive and most recently, on my Master's of management student graduate society as VP finance. Across these various positions I have been passionate in creating and helping facilitate events, mentorship, marketing, and networking for 800 plus people. The value I bring, from my experience are the perspectives of how I hope to execute as well as budget and the financial aspect. I want to bring back to my communities and what I envisioned for the GSS this year is to help deliver and budget monthly events, implementing a more comfortable environment in the graduate lounges through coffee and snack system, and drive personal and professional networking opportunities for the whole graduate cohort. My previous experience being on multiple teams has made me flexible and has made me prepared to work outside my scope. And I would love to help make this a great year. Thank you

**Iraj:** Good evening, everyone. Thank you as useless council for having me today. Before delving to introduction and my plans for the role I would like to again acknowledge the land on which we work is the Occupy traditional territories which we need to remember it every moment. I arrived PhD candidate in mechanical engineering department, which has equipped me with a solid foundation in problem solving, critical thinking and attention to detail. I also have had the privilege of serving as a treasurer of one of the AMC student clubs followed by followed by a term as its president. These positions have provided me with invaluable insights into financial management, largest thing and the significance of transparent reporting. I also want to add that I learned the importance of working as a team to achieve common goals tool collaboration for it and effective communication. So if are entrusted with this role, my firm's priority at the beginning will be to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the society's financial landscape, then I aim to develop a robust framework that supports our financial objectives and sustain the goal of GSS. And I believe all this happen by closely collaborating with executors and the House Finance Committee are also firmly believe in proactive financial planning, accuracy and integrity of financial records and fostering an environment of transparency, accountability and efficiency. Ultimately, my vision for this position is rooted in a strong sense of responsibility and a deep understanding of the importance of sound financial management. At the end, I want to express my



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gratitude for your time and consideration. I stand ready to serve as the chief financial officer bringing my previous experiences in genetic background and unwavering dedication for the soul. Thank you so much.

**Isa:** Thank you Madam Speaker, Mr. President, and the members of council. I would like to begin by thanking you for giving me an opportunity to appear before you. My name is Isa Matuvo. I'm a current student at UBC Vancouver. I am undertaking a Master's in Public Policy and global affairs. My understanding of this assignment as a finance officer is to ensure that we are following the correct finance procedures and policies. We are looking at sustainability of our finances. We are exploring the finance health of the organization, so that it is able to fulfill its core mission of service and advocacy. What do I bring to this assignment, Madam Speaker and the honorable members of council, I have over 10 years practical experience dealing with finances of nonprofits. That also includes recently serving as the chairman and council members of the ICU see University in Uganda, where we raised the budget of the university but also streamline the finance procedures, I have had opportunity to serve on different boards and corporate organizations. I have heard also training in finance for non financial managers by the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group. And I would like to bring these skills to add on to the work that the team is already bringing. My focus is Madam Speaker and the Honourable Members will be on streamlining the audit processes, the budgeting processes. But more importantly, the one unique aspect that I bring to this assignment, possibly a week may not be with the other candidates is my understanding of corporate governance, so that we don't look at finance in isolation, but we look at finance from the broader framework of the organization. If you look at our current strategic plan as guesses, you will realize that one of the core challenges and that the SWOT analysis is actually not finance but mainly issues to do with enhancing corporate governance, issues of visibility, issues of surface, and this is one area where I think I am strong enough. I would like to thank the outgoing finance officer. I think that this is also an opportunity to bring in new ideas and new members so that they we don't create inertia and this I want to pledge to the council that I will use my vast experience, knowledge and skills to serve to my very best event. You Madam Speaker, the Honorable members.

**Ramlogan:** My name is Ramlogan, and I am a grad student in the Department of Medical Genetics, here at UBC under the supervision of Dr. David Huntsman. So currently, I am a member of the GSS elections and Engagement Committee and I look forward to playing a role as the GSS executive team member. If I am elected, I envision to uphold the GSS mandate, which includes primarily providing grad students with a voice, providing grants services to students and connecting grad students across the board. I believe now more than ever, it is imperative that being a financial officer ensures that we adhere to the budget. But at the same time, I also believe that we should welcome new ideas and innovate so that we can secure the future of the GSS financially. I do believe that I can help create a The budget to support GSS and its future aspirations and support students via an academic, professional, social and recreational lens. So how will I do this, I will do this by primarily upholding the GSS constitution, but also performing the role to the best of my abilities, which includes adhering to the GSS bylaws. This will involve keeping diligent records, or preparing budgets, submitting these technical reports to GSS executive members so that they are always aware of the finances of the GSS. What makes me qualified for this position. So I am currently the co director of finance for the medical genetics Graduate Student Association here at UBC. And I am also the co director of finance for the public health Alumni Association at the University of Toronto, where I handle a substantially sized budget, which includes moonshot offense so upwards of about \$20,000. I've worked with school finance staff to ensure that these budgets are properly developed, and that the funder and funding are satisfied with the budget that I've proposed. I've also occupied



numerous other positions which includes events officers, first year alumni officer, and the CO president of the Student Association, so I am well aware of the finances that are required for these positions as well. I have also taken on a non academic role where I proposed budget proposals to non academic customers, so I'm aware of how to build these relationships with our customers, which in this case, our students and I primarily, wholeheartedly feel that the best way to support our students is to create value and I as the FO.

**Wenbin:** My name is Wenbin. I'm currently pursuing a massive engineering degree at UBC specializing the area of clean energy and environment. So prior to that I graduate with a Bachelor in mechanical engineering. I completed my undergrad degree with a overall GPA of 91%, which gives me the honor of finishing as the top 10 graduates mechanical student. So I'm here to express my strong interest in the financial officer role at GSS. So I would like to share some my past experience as the financial analyzer. So during my time at QE, which is one of the biggest construction company in North America. As a project control engineer, I have involved in various scale all financial planning and forecasting for the cost proposal that I need to submit to my clients. So through this process, I've been developing and implementing a company procedure and policies to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and internal guidelines regarding potential change order made to the project owner. At the same time, I have successfully performed the financial audits in terms of invoice built to us from our subcontractors, and prepare the detailed invoice tracker and reports for senior management and stakeholders and for their board meetings. So my group also constantly collaborate with cross functional teams such as planning team to streamline The Financial process leading to increased efficiency and maximum profits. So if I'm being neglected as a Financial Officer for GSS, I have four plans for the association. The first one is assess the financial situation. So I will begin by reviewing the students Association's current financial status, including available funds, revenue streams and existing expenses. And that will analyze financial statements and past budgets to understand the spending patterns. The second one is defined goals and objectives. I would clearly outline the association short term and long term goals identify specific projects, events, and initiatives that require funding support. By third one is the revenue sources. So I will maximize the various revenue revenue sources available to our search Association. And that could including the membership fees, or event ticket sales, sponsorship donations or the grants. My last plan is the budget allocation. So I would create a detailed badge that outlines how the association would allocate funds to different activities and initiatives. And I'll categorize expenses into sections such as events, marketing, administration and different projects. So yeah, that's all my plans. Thank you for your listening and time.

**Speaker:** We are in question period. So 20 minutes to start. So each councillor, if you want to ask questions, please type in your chat saying speak. And then I will put you on the speaker's list and you can ask questions so they can take anybody have questions?

**Devarsh:** So the question is, out of the 1 million total budget that we have 65% of that be spent in paying the salaries of all the people that are associated. As a result, only 35% or 350 \$1,000? is what we have available to the demand for student activities. So I just wanted to get everyone's perspective, is this ratio good or bad? Or what are your general thoughts about it?

**Iraj:** I say so. I think it maybe the good thing is just go back to his story and see how we how GSS could do with 30% budget to foregoing demands. But I think that the first thing that came to my mind is just going back to the history and see the the performance of the GSS and see if we need to change anything, reduce the number of employee or something like that reduce the total salary. And then the other thing could be maybe if we go



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through some more detail about the events and the fingers, we want to do later, we can manage those events with the rest of the budget that we have.

**Cindy:** It's a little bit hard to answer without knowing more details about the breakdown of the 65% of the budget. However, I do think that having only 35% of the budget towards the actual event is does not seem like a good ratio. And I will do my best to communicate transparently with the team as well as with the elected representatives to perhaps work towards increasing the ratio of the budget allocating towards the event itself. In if I may ask, Would it be possible to provide more details about historically, how has the seat 5% of the budget been used? Maybe this is not a good question.

**Devarsh:** So you know, almost 90 95% of that 650,000. It's just salaries of the people involved. So this includes the full time staff that we have the fighters exporting stuff, the full five executives that we have, as well as the 10 to 15 working students that we have, in addition to this, and the external consultants that we hire like the lawyer, accountant, and all these different personnel, that is what accounts for 65%. Okay, so I hope that you provide some more context for the agreement. So basically, it's just salaries of all the people that are associated with GSS.

**Wenbin:** I say so. I think it maybe the good thing is just go back to his story and see how we how GSS could do with 30% budget to foregoing demands. But I think that the first thing that came to my mind is just going back to the history and see the the performance of the GSS and see if we need to change anything, reduce the number of employee or something like that reduce the total salary. And then the other thing could be maybe if we go through some more detail about the events and the fingers, we want to do later, we can manage those events with the rest of the budget that we have.

**Ramlogan:** Thank you, Madam Speaker and inaudible counselor for the question. I think normally in such situation is people run into wanting to cut down staff or reducing salaries. But that's not the solution. As DSS we need the administration. And we need to know work with them. Now, the biggest solution now is how do we expand the resource envelope? How do we bring in more resources because by international standards, administrative costs should not exceed 20%. So if it is 65%, it simply means we are not raising enough resources rather than meaning we are spending more on administration. It could also need the review of our chart of accounts, because sometimes we think it is administrative costs when it is actually a program costs that are embedded in administration. So we need to review and delineate, but the most important thing is actually expanding the resources.

**Isa:** I'm sorry, I'm just putting like, so I think it's very important to consider that this is 5% is maintained. But I also feel that as the Financial Officer, I'd be able to more, I guess, lobby for a larger budget, if that's not possible, possibly reworked the existing budget so that we can accommodate various activities. I found myself in a similar situation when I was developing the budget for the public health Alumni Association, where the networking committee required a larger budget and so what I had to do was sit down with them organization as a whole, and ask each committee whether they were like they were on board for having a certain part of the budget go towards another committee. And so, as a result of that, by working the budget, I was able to satisfy all parties. So think as a Financial Officer, I'd be able to sit down with everyone and just rework the budget as needed.



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**Abhishek:** So currently, I would like to address this issue with respect to the was what he mentioned, like the costs are split into the executives, the staff and the worklearn. So I would like to reiterate that saying that working on is position for students. So we can not directly take the impact of the financials, which we give it out to work lands as an overheads as administrative costs. So that is how we have to reiterate the situation where a good account to around just around 30 33% of the cost for the workloads. So again, that management costs would reduce to around maybe around 60 65%. Less than, though what they were still mentioned, and also how we can.

**Sam:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And thank you our candidates for availing yourself for this position. My question goes to everybody. The GSS represents over 10,000 graduate students here at UBC. Our main source of revenue is that deals each and every graduate student paid to the society. Currently, as the vast said, we have about 1 million a year and majority of it goes to pain and administrative costs, how would you bring in more revenue to the society? What are your plans to generate more revenue for our society? Thank you.

**Ramlogan:** Okay. I see. So, for the revenue, I think making cooperation with other resources could be one of the things of course, it needs some, you know, need more information or more investigation to find out how we can have more cooperation with government resources or other industrial resources. But the first thing that came to my mind is this, just have some collaboration with government or other private industry. The and yeah, that's the first thing that came to my mind

**Isa:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. And, Mr. President for the question. From my experience, I think in the short run, we have to focus on creating project partnerships. And looking at the corporate activity based funding, so that we bring in partners to fund but to activities that could will appeal to them. In the long run, I think we have to design sustainable resource mobilization strategy that could look at issues like enrollments for for BSS. And thank you.

Iraj: So times are tough right now. And the last thing we want to do is ask students for more money. But what I pay every year is sort of like one of those, like, I pay fees to the school. So what I would do as a financial officer is I would go to the school and ask the school to take some of those fees and put it towards the GSS. So instead of having to ask the students for more money, just rework What's there to take a bit of money out of the fees that go towards another part of the school that might possibly might not provide that much value, and then redirect that to the GSS. And build a case for how those fees can support the students further.

**Wenbin:** So the first thing comes to my mind, or even as I mentioned earlier, during my introduction is the donations. So I think the donation is a very straightforward way to to gather a big chunk of money in a short, short amount of time. So we can ask donation from alumni, faculty, staff, or other supporters, that can be valuable revenue sources. And the second one I that comes to my mind is the grants. So we can apply for grants from university departments, or the BC government's, or some other organization that supports student initiatives. So yeah, those two are the big one. Or we can start by selling some branded merchandise, like T shirts, or mugs, or some other accessory to the student to raise them.

**Abhishek:** Yeah, so the main source of income to raise the secondary source of income is through the unutilized assets. What GSS has done is through the booking space for commercial, we can streamline for the





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commercial booking, and then we can use the catering service as a secondary source of income. And also, we can redirect existing bank funds into the revenue generation investment accounts. So those are a few of the highlights and which I'll be taking up in the future as well.

**Cindy:** Thank you, that's a great question. Um, in my experience, working with nonprofit organizations, we sustain our events through a lot of sponsorships and fundraisers. And depending on because our target audience is graduate students who will go on to working in industry or academia, I think this presents an opportunity to, to many industry corporations to increase their brand exposure. And I would work with the team to develop a sponsorship or media exposure packages so that we can contact relevant companies that we think may be related to the event. And additionally, we can also organize some fundraisers, and work with the events team to to see if we can maybe like give the students some food in exchange for their money, right. And additionally, there's also like, grants that we can apply for.

**Stephen:** So, I have a question. I'm glad that most of you did mention the aspect of event expenditure, which for sure falls under the VP students. I'm really concerned especially when it comes to finance officer in line with funds in relation to the events. And now my question here comes what this goes to all the candidates what could be your priority in terms of financial goals? And how would you make that a strategic financial decision in terms of capital gain or revenue sustainability when at the end of the day we are unable to charge students a lot of money on some of these events to gain some revenues

**Isa:** The question that has been raised by vP students is at the center of the resource mobilization strategy that we have to redesign in terms of looking at the broader framework of revisiting our current resources and programs but also in terms of exploring new avenues for new program, for example, in terms of events, which he was speaking about, we don't only have to look at the current events involving students. We have to design and brand and rebrand new events that could be involved learners, students, or a combination of students and other students using our historical name but also using the good name of the university. I see us doing events outside of the university I see us doing big events that bring many students and other corporate from across the country.

**Ramlogan:** I'm sorry, just gonna come off camera. So this is actually very interesting, primarily because I've been in the shoes of the event coordinator. And I know that students will come to events if they pay a small fee. But I also think that providing value to students is important. So what I would propose is either creating small events that can generate revenue quick see, like, you know, just like Forest therapy, or some other events that could generate quick revenue, but provide a lot of value for the students, or I would propose creating moonshot events. So these are large scale events that require corporate sponsors. And these events can bring in students they can enjoy, you know, a topic of choice, but also bring in corporate sponsors, so that, you know, we would get the corporate sponsors to sort of like foot the bill for us so that the GSS don't have to create a sizeable chunk of finances just for that event. So I think that could be one way.

**Wenbin:** so I would say just probably organized more creative and engaging fundraising activities that can resonate with the like the associates and target audience, and it can even attract more sponsorship that align with their goals and their interest. So because effective campaign can lead to a higher financial gains in a short amount of time. Thank you. Thank you.





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**Abhishek:** Yeah, yeah, thank you, Madam Speaker, and Mr. Vice versa, and students. So since you have a big portfolio of events, we can collaborate with our internal vendors, for the commercial event booking and for the catering services and for the alcohol, which creates a secondary source of income, and we can not charge more to students as well. And also we can make revenue through the secondary source of income. So this is a very high impact revenue generation stream, which I'm basically working on to get in the collaborations, which is one of my portfolios if I get elected. Okay.

**Cindy:** So my idea, I think, if I understood the question correctly, is that how do we raise funds for students given the current economy? And if that is the question, this might sound a bit funny, but I think targeting students may not be the best way to raise funds quickly in a short amount of time. No matter how cheap you offer something, there's always going to be all students are already underpaid. But there's always the person who says, Oh, \$5 for burgers and fries is too expensive. I think it's better to apply for government funding. Usually, if you have a well developed plan, you can get raise a lot of money very quickly for a small team. And additionally, target just target rich people, maybe like illuminate or something. And I've in the past, we've worked with a team to organize southern auctions and there was like a gift card that went beyond the price because people like to show off their wealth. Thanks. Thank you.

**Iraj:** Yes, so, for increasing revenue through events, I think we require a strategic planning and creative approach to track attendees and sponsors. For example, a host a variety of events such as workshop, conferences, seminars, social gatherings could be a good solution to appeal to a broader audience and cater to different interests. Or another thing can be host virtual have hybrid events or say collaborate with sponsors and partners who align with our events them or target audience could be another solution, I think. Thank you.

**Violeta:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. And congratulations, everyone for putting your name forward. I really appreciate it. And I've enjoyed the discussion so far. So I'm the VP external at the society. And some of you I think, Cindy, you recently responded to one of the questions to my with my, to an answer an answer to one of my, my question. So my question for you. And it's for everyone would be how would you support external advocacy? And how important do you think it's seeking funding from the government and other external sources? Thank you.

**Ramlogan:** So I would be on fully on board with supporting external, sort of trying to use the government or corporate sponsors primarily because I do feel that the government is a source of funding that we can tap into. But with that said, it's a bit difficult to acquire government funding just because of the bureaucracy that goes with government funding. So I would sort of shift that 95% government funding and having 5% reserved just for corporate sponsors. So although targeting both might be in our best interest, I would feel that in the short term toward targeting corporate sponsors for like events, for example, would be a quick and easy way to sort of get funding. And if that's not the case, then I over the long term, I would seek government funding.

**Wenbin:** I would just identify a potential sponsor or donors that we align with our associates and mission and values, because if their interest is aligned with us, they would be more willing to spend their money or donate some money to our organizations. But of course, we have to, you know, kind of build a strong networking with them on. So yeah, I think that's my answer.



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**Abhishek:** So currently, as a VP, as a Financial Officer, I could help with the numbers, the budgeting what you would require, because you're the wise you are the wise, the external wise, and so we can back you up with the internal information and the numbers what you could ask, you could advocate the Society for. So that is the main thing. And apart from that, we could also help in reorganizing the budget where you would require more support from the financial team. Thank you.

**Iraj:** So I think that government funding allows an organization to scale up their operations and reach a larger audience or community. So I think the government, government funding and support from other sources can act as a catalyst encouraging other private business and organization to contribute. So I think these kinds of resources are important, how we're, it's I think, it's hard to get these kinds of resources. Thank you. Sir.

**Isa:** Thank you, Madam Speaker and the VP external I would like to support her and the department in three ways. Number one is to align external advocacy with our strategic plan. So that it is not one off things we are following but the systematic alignment number two is to revisit and the leverage existing partnership because as the VP external, they are working with many other student organizations across the province. Lastly, and most importantly, I would like to support her with designing and marketing fundable proposals for the department.

**Speaker:** I am sending the poll out, but really congratulation everyone for participating.

**Sam:** Point of order. I think this should be a secret ballot.

**Speaker:** We have not we never done secret ballot unless the council asked for an election. Oh, secret ballot? Yes. Can we start but we've never really done it before

**Sam:** No, what happens is the results show but not the names

**Speaker:** I know secret ballot means who voted for who doesn't show but I'm telling you that traditionally. We don't see unless the unless the councillors asked for it. So I need the councillor to give me that direction. Does that make sense?

**Sam:** Yes, that's what we've always done.

**Speaker:** What do you mean?

**Sam:** counselors can see the results, but not who vote for who

**Speaker:** Are you sure? I've been here for more than 10 years

**Sam:** I remember I was the president last year Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** Okay, so I wouldn't be I will I will need the council's I will need the council direction though because right now I'm sorry, I'm still calling the shots and that you can you can reject me and right now you're basically rejecting my ruling. So I'm fine with the counselor saying like no, you overrule the speaker's way. And that will need though they'll just need a simple majority and no going to secret ballot.



**Sam:** Yes, Madam Speaker, we are revoking this in line with our traditions. We want a fair and fair election. So I believe this was what happened last year. I believe it was what happened two years ago.

**Speaker:** Not to my memory, and we have voting system in the past for the record, but the council can do anything because that this is your council.

**Sam:** speaker, we don't need to argue about this too much. We have voted and seconded this.

**Speaker:** Sorry I am following the rules

**Sam:** what we assume is actually injustice because we are doing the wrong thing. And we are correcting ourselves to do the right thing. So we don't need a vote on this. Once the motion has been seconded.

**Conny:** Know that once the motion is seconded we need we need to approve the vote. How about this? I make it simple. Okay, and make it simple. It's totally fine to reject what I do I just need to follow the rules. So I'm gonna ask any objection to revoke what the vote has happened right now and then go into a a nominates vote any objections please type in the chat Wait just a bit Hearing no objection then we go into an ominous so I miss a person I have to follow the rule that's what I'm hired for.

**Sam:** this is over please we don't need to argue about this.

(voting starts)

**Sam:** Congratulations, Abhishek for your election and thank you to all the candidates for standing. I would like to play with you to continue to serve the society please this should be the end of your involvement with the GSS wish you're the best

## 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.1 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

[June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023](#)

**Mover:** Tonje

**Second:** Monje

**Result:** Carried

### 2.2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

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|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Academic &amp; External Committee:</b> |  | <b>Human Resources Committee:</b> | June 6, 2023 |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|



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|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Code &amp; Policy Committee:</b>               | May 23, 2023; June 12 2023    | <b>AMS Caucus:</b>                    | June 12, 2023                |
| <b>Engagement &amp; Elections Committee:</b>      | June 16, 2023; June 30, 2023. | <b>Graduate Council:</b>              | June 13, 2023; July 11 2023  |
| <b>Executive Committee:</b>                       | June 5, 2023                  | <b>Health and Dental Plan Caucus:</b> |                              |
| <b>Executive Oversight Committee</b>              |                               | <b>All-Chairs:</b>                    | June 6, 2023                 |
| <b>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</b> | June 12, 2023; June 26, 2023  | <b>House Finance Committee:</b>       | June 20, 2023; July 11, 2023 |
|   |                               |                                       |                              |

**Mover:** Isha

**Second:** Violeta

**Result:** Carried

**Devarsh:** Thank you Madam Speaker. So I would like to motivate for the House Finance Committee. So first of all, thanks to all the candidates for applying for the finance officer positions. And this is something that I would urge them to join as well so it would get personally all their different finance related operations as a part of the committee and honestly it will be much less ridiculous compared to the finance officer position so yeah please please consider joining thank you

## 3 SEATINGS

### 3.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

| Name                  | Department              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Cara James (reseated) | Earth and Ocean Science |
|                       |                         |
|                       |                         |

**Mover:** Violeta

**Second:** Fiana

**Result:** Carried



## 3.2 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    |         | Representative | 1         |
| Graduate Council<br>Caucus |         | Representative | 3         |
| AMS Caucus                 |         | Representative | 0         |
| Health & Dental            |         | Representative | 0         |

**Mover:** Devarsh

**Seconded:** Isha

**Result:** Carried

## 3.3 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      | 2         |
|                                |            | Ordinary Member | 1         |
| Code & Policy                  |            | Councillor      | 3         |
|                                |            | Ordinary Member | 0         |
| Engagement & Elections         |            | Councillor      | 4         |
|                                |            | Ordinary Member | 1         |
| Executive Oversight            |            | Councillor      | 5         |
|                                | Felix Cheu | Ordinary Member | 2         |
| Governance &<br>Accountability |            | Councillor      | 5         |
|                                |            | Ordinary Member | 0         |



|                 |  |                 |   |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| House Finance   |  | Councillor      | 3 |
|                 |  | Ordinary Member | 2 |
| Human Resources |  | Councillor      | 1 |
|                 |  | Ordinary Member | 0 |

**Mover:** Isha

**Seconded:** Fiana

**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 July 2024:

| Name of Affiliate Organization           | Representative   |
|--|------------------|
| Pathology Students Association           | Madeline Lauener |
| Innovation Onboard                       | Mariia Radaeva   |
| Sauder Management Consulting Club (SMCC) | Yoran Beishar    |

**MOVER:** VP Students

**SECONDER:** Tonje

**RESULT:** Carried

### 4.2 POLICY 10 UPDATES

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, Events Manager, HF Committee

**Description:** A motion to update policies regarding booking and house rules.

**Objective:** To discuss policy amendments.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form - Policy 10 Updates.pdf](#)



**WHEREAS** the current set of booking and house policies do not match current practices,

**WHEREAS** the current practices are to be followed,

**WHEREAS** the GSS Loft must follow AMS Nest rules and regulations,

**BIRT** the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - Policy 10 Updates.pdf" be approved

## Discussion

**Aaron:** Thank you, Madame Speaker. Yeah, just to give a very brief overview of this. So policy 10 refers to a room booking system and how different affiliate organizations or outside businesses interact with their spaces. These are just updates to the rules to kind of confirm or go along with current practices as well as to integrate the AMS rules into our policy as it refers to the JSs loft which is a building that also has to be which is also looked over by the AMS so these updates were made in collaboration with both Asia committee and our events manager which they have all been approved by them so that's all if you have any questions let me know

**MOVER:** Code & Policy  
Committee

**RESULT:** Carried

## 4.3 HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, HR Committee

**Description:** A motion to update policies regarding the HRC Terms of Reference.

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

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form - HRC Terms of Reference.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** the current terms of reference for the Human Resources Committee have needed updating for years,

**WHEREAS** the current HRC has been able to approve HRC Terms of Reference changes,

**BIRT** the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - HRC Terms of Reference.pdf" be approved.





**MOVER:** Code & Policy  
Committee

**RESULT:** Carried

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## 4.4 POSITION STATEMENTS EXPIRY

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** A motion to update our current set of position statements.

**Proposed Objective:** To approve removing expired position statements.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** [Policy Revision Form - Position Statements Expiry.pdf](#)

**WHEREAS** position statements automatically expire three AGMs after approval,

**WHEREAS** the current position statements listed in Appendix XV were approved more than three AGMs ago,

**BIRT** the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - Position Statements Expiry.pdf" be approved.

**MOVER:** Code & Policy  
Committee

**RESULT:**  
Carried

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## DISCUSSION

**Aaron:** So basically, the position statements after approval require after three ATMs to have a discussion in council usually about extending or removing the position statements. However, just due to overt or oversights, problems and just like not properly giving tasks out or just a lot of people like basically we just weren't able to remember to do this task at the last AGM. So in light of that, the position statements have expired, and this is just to remove them from our policy manual. And I figured this would also be serving as a notice just to say that the position statements have expired and are being removed

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## 4.5 RENTAL OF LEON'S LOUNGE

**Responsible:** Sam Kenston, GSS President and Executive Committee

**Description:** A motion to approve the rental of Leon's Lounge to the Uhill Law Firm to use as office space. The lease will start on August 15, 2023 until August 15, 2024. Currently Leon's lounge is being used as storage. Renting it out will bring more revenue. Agreement Terms and rental fee will be negotiated upon Council



approval. We will thoroughly review Uhill Law Firm's request, and all necessary paperwork, including liability insurance coverage and signed agreements, will be obtained prior to moving in.

**Proposed Objective:** To approve rental of Lounge

**Time:** 10 minutes

**WHEREAS** Uhill Law Firm has expressed interest in renting Leon's Lounge to be used as their office.

**WHEREAS** The rental agreement will generate additional revenue for the Graduate Student Society, which can be utilized to support various initiatives and activities benefiting graduate students.

**BIRT** The Graduate Student Society Council hereby approves the rental of Leon's Lounge to the Uhill Law Firm to use as office space.

**Mover:** Executive Committee

**Result:** Carried

Discussion

**Sam:** Just want to explained to members that this is Leon's lounge, that with less, we just stored our chairs there. And there is this law firm that GSS has recently contacted to serve as our lawyer. Thankfully, they are also looking for an office they do have an office in Westbrook, but they are looking for other offices. So we felt we could rent out that place. And just like discussed today, this will be another source of revenue for the society.

## 5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

## 6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

### 6.1 EXECUTIVES

#### 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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Participated in the Presidential Search Committee: It is all confidential but has kept me extremely busy

Drafting a letter to Minister of Advanced Education on funding for Graduate Students

Met with different company representatives to set schedule for networking opportunities in the fall

Attended all regular meetings and committees e.g. GSSBC, Student Accessibility Task Force,

Scheduling Meetings with the Federal Government

## 6.1.5 VP Students

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Weekly participation on GLC planning and programming meetings.

Bi-weekly consultation with G + PS on Gradstart and orientation Activities.

Engage collaboratively towards implementation of GSS events in partnership with both internal and external stakeholders.

## 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 approved booking policy changes, HR terms of reference, and discussed the next steps to clarifying our position statement policy.

### 6.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

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New Member of the Committee

One new vacant seat for an ordinary member is available

Still needing councillors interested in joining in (4 needed)

Successfully held the QE park tour

Planning the next GSS events for students, which include a boat tour of the Vancouver coastline



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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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## 6.2.7 House Finance Committee

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Conducting internal financial review for the previous financial year (FY 2022-23).

- The budget surplus for last year (FY 2022-23) is (approx.) \$70,000 compared to \$142,000 (FY 2021-22) and \$198,425 (FY 2020-21)
- Variance due to over-spending in:
  - Events funds (for affiliate organizations) Actuals vs budget - \$46,236.56 vs \$18,800.00 = \$27k (approx.)
  - GSFA (Actuals vs budget) - \$67k vs \$27k = \$40k
- Need support from Executives about "suspense/unknowns expenses" = \$65,000 (receipts or details not submitted or confirmed by the accountant)
- Payrate change request for one WL student is not approved to keep consistency among all WL students with similar experience and contributions.
- Reminder: WL Students can be paid only up to 20 hrs/week as per the UBC WL contract
- Discussed corporate insurance renewal for GSS

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## 6.2.8 Human Resources

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1. New Feedback from CPC committee of final version of HR Committee's Terms of Reference
2. GSS HR Contractor Job Title Change
3. Vote for Appoint Mariia Radaeva as Entrepreneurship Coordinator and Mentor
4. Vote for Veshwan Varma Annam as Accounting clerk

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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

### 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

**Date:** Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Online via MS Teams

### 7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

Aroshi Senanayake was unseated as Representative of the AMS Caucus

Binura Senavirathna was unseated as Representative of the AMS Caucus

Vignesh Krishnamoorthy was unseated as Representative of the AMS Caucus

Nimish Khandelwal was unseated as Ordinary member of the House of Finance Committee

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:03 pm.

**Mover:** Isha

**Second:** Fiana

**Result:** Carried