ATTENDANCE


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 5:42 pm.

1.2 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Tonje  Seconder: Sam  Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: We will be posting this on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. We must acknowledge that this place has been a learning experience for several years. We have become conscious of our actions and how our activities here can promote indigenous rights. We must adhere to the truth and be open to the risk of reconciliation. We aim to enact laws and standards that support and promote indigenous culture. Thank you very much

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1.2 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

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

*September 21st, 2023*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mover:</th>
<th>Sam</th>
<th>Seconder:</th>
<th>Tonje</th>
<th>Result:</th>
<th>Carried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1.3 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic &amp; External Committee:</th>
<th>Human Resources Committee:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code &amp; Policy Committee:</td>
<td>AMS Caucus: August 13th 2023, June 12th 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 1st, 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engagement &amp; Elections Committee:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Graduate Council:</strong> Sept 8th, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13th, 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Committee:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Health and Dental Plan Caucus:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 13th, 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Oversight Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>All-Chairs:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10th, 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</strong></td>
<td><strong>House Finance Committee:</strong> Sept 19th 2023, Sept 26th 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11th 2023, Sept 25th 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mover:</th>
<th>Tonje</th>
<th>Seconder:</th>
<th>Nick</th>
<th>Result:</th>
<th>Carried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2 SEATINGS

2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2 OF 14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mover:</th>
<th>Nick</th>
<th>Seconder:</th>
<th>Lily</th>
<th>Result:</th>
<th>Carried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 2.2 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Arts Council</td>
<td>Fiana Kawane</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Council Caucus</td>
<td>Isha Gill, Jalisa Karim, Rakashdeep Kainth, Nicholas Phin, Tonje Molyneux, Negar Moosavi</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
<td>Shishir Nurul, Franziska Mey, Samia Syeoti</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Binura Senavirathna</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Dental</td>
<td>Franziska Mey</td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External</td>
<td>Franziska Mey, Simarjeet Nagpal, Firth McEachern</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexandre Ley Banks, Sarah Ebert, Samantha Graham</td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aaron Loewen, Daniel He, Courtney Hoskinson, Anshika Srivastava</td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement &amp; Elections</td>
<td>Xiaohan, Ramlogan, Bill Zhao, Zach Pollard, Benjamin Fyneah</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight</td>
<td>Nicholas Phin</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aaron Lowen, Felix Cheu, Maryke Peter, Catalina Ionescu, Ali Haghverdi</td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability</td>
<td>Sena Youn, Tim McCall, Jessica Quinton, Mondo Tan, Anshika Srivastava</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td>Olivia Tsihlias</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4 CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair seatings be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee</td>
<td>Sena Youn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code and Policy</td>
<td>Aaron Loewen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Yuting Liu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td>Atul Aravindakshan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External</td>
<td>Simar Nagpal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight</td>
<td>Nick Phin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement &amp; Elections</td>
<td>Bill Zhao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
<td>Shishir Nurul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mover: Franziska  Seconder: Lily  Result: Carried
Description: A motion to update policies regarding the removal of GSS Chairs due to prolonged absence.

Proposed Objective: To discuss and approve policy amendments.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: Policy Revision Form - Chair Removal Policy.docx

WHEREAS there have been historically difficulties getting some Committees to increase activity due to absent Chairs,

WHEREAS the current policies regarding Chair removal are unspecific and do not have criteria listed for removal,

BIRT the policy changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - Chair Removal Policy.docx" be approved.

MOVER: G&A Committee SECONDER: Nick RESULT: All in favour

3.2 SIGNING OF STUDENT UNION JOINT LETTER FOR BANK DIVESTMENT

Responsible: Michelle Marcus and Jaden Phillips, representing Climate Justice UBC and Change Course

Description: Presentation and motion to vote to sign onto the National Student Union Letter: Calling on the Big 5 Banks to Divest from Fossil Fuels. Nine student unions have already signed the letter, including Simon Fraser Student Society, University of Victoria Students' Society and University of Toronto Students' Union. This is a follow-up to Michelle and Jaden's presentation to GSS council on Thursday, February 16th, 2023. The presentation outlined the Big 5 Banks' contribution to the climate crisis and violence against Indigenous peoples; how the campaign aligns with the GSS Strategic Plan goals and objectives; and the alternatives to the big banks, in particular local credit unions.

Objective: For the GSS to vote to sign onto the National Student Union Letter: Calling on the Big 5 Banks to Divest from Fossil Fuels.

Time: 10 minute presentation, 10 minute questions and discussion

Supporting Documents: Presentation, Student Union Joint Letter

WHEREAS RBC, TD, Scotiabank, BMO, and CIBC — Canada's "Big 5" Banks — have financed over $1.12 trillion CAD in fossil fuel projects since 2016.

WHEREAS These fossil fuel projects contribute to extreme weather events, including wildfires in BC, which affect students' mental and physical wellbeing including experience of climate anxiety.
WHEREAS The International Energy Agency and United Nations have said that there can be no new fossil fuel infrastructure if the world is to stay within a 1.5 degree temperature increase and avoid irreversible climate change.

WHEREAS The Big 5 Banks are financing the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline and Trans Mountain Pipeline, which do not have consent from and are actively opposed by Indigenous nations, including the Wet’suwet’en, and the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh respectively.

WHEREAS The Graduate Student Society Strategic Plan 2022-2026 includes Climate Action and Sustainability as a key priority and includes commitments to ethical and green investments.

BIRT The Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver sign onto the National Student Union Letter: Calling on the Big 5 Banks to Divest from Fossil Fuels.

MOVER: Tonje SECONDER: Nick RESULT: All in favour

DISCUSSION

Stephen: Just since quite a large portion of this motion and the presentation that was given was about indigenous people and indigenous rights. I'm curious why indigenous organizations have been involved in this movement or signed on to this

Michelle: this initiative? Yeah, that's a great, great question. So this the bank divestment campaign as a whole was very much led by indigenous people, the wet su attend nation in particular has been very involved, they have gone to save have direct communication with the banks, like they've sent letters to the banks and they've gone to like RBC, its AGM for example, RBC treated them very poorly. And like, basically like canceled the meeting and moved to online on the last minute notice. But they have this is yeah, like the leaders of the Nisha have been very much involved. And they save called for the the international community to support them and sign on. So a member of our organization has like correctly been in touch with that nation, and then there's also been some contact with Bluetooth nation and indigenous climate action is also a group that is involved in in this coalition of organizations that are working on this campaign.

Firth: the two pipelines that you mentioned, do you know approximately how many indigenous groups are affected by that process?

Jaden: Which I'm, I'm not sure if the specific numbers but the point with this says that the the nation the wetsuit nation, like for the coastal gaslink, pipelines, deep the pipeline, they have a jurisdiction over their territory, it's recognized not only in their own law, but by the the BC Supreme Court has formally recognized that like they are the the people with jurisdiction over that territory, and they are opposing this. This project on their land, they've had, you know, RCMP come and violently remove them from their land with like, snipers and dogs and like, attack dogs. And they've, you know, these people have faced a lot of violence, the handler, stampede. So yeah, we see this as like a clear example of colonial violence that the government is trying to like
shut this pipeline across their territory without their consignments threatening their lands and their water waves.

**Sam:** Thank you very much for that application moment. We didn't talk about this and new counselors training because I know we'll learn it as we go. Thank you for the presentation. This is very great. We appreciate the work you have done, the work you continue to do and all the mobilisation you were doing. And the GSS we do take your advocacy work very seriously. We agree that fossil fuel and things that damage the climate should be minimized, if not eliminated, totally. My recommendation here comes with the motion, which as a society we do have a dialogue and Policy and Guidelines on profession. Your statement, I notice this is a very long motion. And I also noticed it entails a lot. As a society for us to be able to sign on to this statement. We do need our VP external to look through this. And it needs to meet certain criteria. I must admit we've had a change of big external GRC. last Council meeting. So sure. A lot of that didn't go through the VP external. So my suggestion would be, why don't we move this to the VPS than our office so that it's aligned with GSS policy guidelines on how a statement should be written on behalf of the GSS society so that we can move this next council meeting. I know a lot of work has been done. I'm not trying to postpone this. I'm just saying why we don't we hand this over to the DPS there now. So that DPS then I can write official GSS acquisitions data and bring it to the next council council vote on it. And we have this out, because in this current format, it doesn't align with GSS position statement guidelines.

Motion to refer this motion to the VP External Office

**MOVER:** Sam  **SECONDER:** Stephen  **RESULT:** All in favour

**Michelle:** I just wanted to clarify that because it's like the way it is right now. It's one letter with like the same wording that's signed by multiple student organizations. So are you proposing that the GSS has like a differently worded letter that would only be signed by us?

**Sam:** So what we can do is if we put out a position statement, they can just say GSS aligned with this or DSS support this motion or Gss is in favor of this and also the most important thing is giving it to the DPS now make sure the same thing council vote on there are guidelines for our position statement to follow so make sure this follows on me to make any that gets the TPS done up cool. Also bring it to council no without to know with the DPS then I could make this an agenda for council and we can sign on to this even without the chicken sign on this on our behalf if Council were for this Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the main thing Elephant in the house, it's not about voting or getting this document than right now. What we are concerned about is our existing policy and the guidelines when it comes to committing to this kind of, you know, commitment. And so that's where the issue of getting back into look or getting back into our policy and guideline just to ensure that the position statement aligns with what has been presented, not just signing because other universities have signed up for that.

**Michelle:** Yeah, I'm just wondering if it would still be possible to do a motion today just to say that Council supports this and principle, like recognizing that, like, every Council supports that in principle, and then directs
the VP external to make a position statement, just a bit like you have something passed today. And we get like a sense of where the council stands on this, even if it’s not formally signing on.

**Speaker:** So what I'm gathering from this as you would like to make you can, at this point, we're talking about the amendment itself and not voting on the amendment, you would like to amend this to say, you can actually do this where you could say the resolve that GSS Council agrees basically within the whatever words you want to say you can say you agree with the letter. And that be it further resolved. Council refers this motion to the VP external to draft position statement and you can either put a date on that November Council specifically say at that, just that you do have clear support here, and just a formality next meeting.

**Sam:** Yes, that's what I'm going to say.

**Margaret:** If you were going to give the same presentation to other students societies at UBC. And if you had already done that, what your success was and or I guess this is kind of pointless now because we just agreed to approve everything single, but if that's what the other group said then I was curious.

**Michelle:** yeah, that's a great question. So, we have had numerous discussions with the AMS about this. Unfortunately, the AFS has a lot of relationships with RBC, you folks probably know about the RBC branch downstairs and then last, they also have like sponsorship and advertising relationships with RBC and they, they bank with RBC, they do have a much more complicated banking system then from when we understand the GSEs they're much larger and they might have like, hundreds of club accounts. So and yeah, the least what they effectively signed a 12 here at RBC branch downstairs. This is all very unfortunate because the because RBC is the is not only the top fossil fuel funder in Canada, but it is now the top fossil fuel funder in the world. So we're still trying to push them to end their sponsorship relationships with RBC. Unfortunately, the current AMS executive does not see climate, as as much of a priority as we would like. However, we think if we can get more groups like the GSS, on board with this, and if we continue with our advocacy and demonstrate to them that like climate is an issue that students care about, that we hope we can make some headway with that, but yeah, the answer is that they they're at this point, they haven't been willing to end any of those, those relationships, so they are not signing on to the statement.

**Speaker:** Thank you for that. Just we do want to clarify, we haven't actually voted yet on the amendment to agree in principle. We will be doing that shortly on that, folks. Our next member on our speaker's list

**Abhishek:** his question regarding by so many students, that've been signing it? Can you give us like, what actions they have taken

**Michelle:** That's an excellent question. So you have Keystone units taken the most stuff they have voted to basically event they're at peace with RBC. So the ones that lease expires in a couple of years, RBC will have to leave building they've they're moving their bank account as well RBC and they passed a policy did not take any sponsorships with RBC, University of Ottawa Student Union has moved their banking from I forget which bank they moved out of. But they moved it to the Georgetown which is credit union, and about central bank and Ontario. And there, they've also been supporting student organizers with resources with like firing and just like educating the student body about alternative banking options, and how to move to a credit union. The York University students union has also moved their money out of being bank and into a credit union and to alternate credit union and Ontario. So yeah, those are like the top examples. And then there's several students
where conversation with their like actively working on UNdeC sponsorships or moving their bank accounts, they just haven't made it public yet.

Abhishek: Yeah, I would like to add on to this initiative as well. As part of GSS banking with Scotia Bank, we do have investments in green initiative funds. So it's entirely not that we are banking on the fossil fuel. But also we have our investments in the inefficient use of the investments on only a few of the investment.

Daemon: I think they should all be kind of mind for all of us right now. Could you comment on why your motion sort of is going after the banks as opposed to the government policies that are allowing companies to subvert indigenous sovereignty?

Michelle: That is an excellent question. Unfortunately, I think this question came up last time I was here but Yeah, unfortunately, the king Canadian government. Really, at the end of the day, when it comes to issues like this, they listen to corporations. They're, you know, I have been working with climate movement for like, eight years now. There's people who've been doing this for decades advocated to the government, we've tried really hard to get them to have policy that, you know, limits emissions and respects indigenous rights, all this stuff, but they don't listen, because they Yeah, the politicians are, are, yeah, the corporation's lobbying them so hard, and they just don't listen to those perspectives. So the kind of the theory of change of the divestment movement is that if we target these corporations, and we educate the public, that these corporations are directly harming, you know, climate, indigenous rights, you know, they're also profit gouging and these banks are for profit, so they like ripping off consumers as well, like credit unions, which are much more democratic. We educate the public, then we can kind of take away their social sounds from these companies. So that The government or politicians will feel like they can't just like listen to those companies as much, or else like the public will kind of call them call them out for it.

Jaden: I was going to add also that like, because there's such massive corporations, they have lots of sweet throughout the country and in political circles as well, and sponsoring all sorts of events like government events, and like non government events, including on campuses, therefore, like, targeting banks, they're kind of like, in some way, a root cause because of the root source of finance to these problematic, problematic climate wrecking projects, and therefore, like, targeting them directly. It's one avenue that like ultimate advocates are going for it because like governments and politics often take long time to, to, like, get things done and to change things.

Shishir: Yes, so correct me if I am wrong, as far as I know, is that if any corporate bank goes bankrupt, and governments try to bail us out, now, if GSS open any account with any credit learning, so if they go bankrupt, how, what the situation will look like?

Michelle: Yeah, that's a great question. So credit unions also have deposit insurance. So it's the same as the banks that they're, they're just as safe as the banks in that regard.

Sam: I just want to call the question because of time, if we can vote on this.

Speaker: So now we are voting on the amended option

BIRT the GSS Council endorses this statement in principle
BIRT: Council refers this motion to the VP external to draft the position statement in accordance with the GSS guidelines for submission to November Council

MOVER: Ali SECONDER: Nick RESULT: All in favour

4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

Responsible: Financial Officer Abhishek Somanagoudar

Description: Presentation about GSS finances

Objective: To update councillors on the GSS 2022-2023 Finances

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: Presentation

5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

5.1 EXECUTIVES

5.1.1 President:

5.1.2 Financial Officer

5.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs
5.1.4 VP External Relations

5.1.5 VP Students
Participating in GLC grand lounge planning and programming.
Collaborating with team to identify relevant events/programs as part of GLC operation.
Planning towards council retreat.

5.2 COMMITTEES

5.2.1 Academic & External Committee
Launched Student Satisfaction Survey 2023, Draft of new AcEx structure and Terms of Reference

5.2.2 Code & Policy Committee
CPC has been working on updating AcEx Terms of Reference and policies for the removal of inactive/absent Chairs.

5.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

5.2.4 Executive Committee

5.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee
5.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee
Drafting new SMART goals, reviewing KPIs, finalizing Chairship Removal Policy

5.2.7 House Finance Committee
1) Financial Officer has started onboarding with new accounting firm (Bickert) and terminating agreement with current firm (Enkel)
2) GFSA payments have resumed
3) Conducted expense journal entry review for May-July 2023. Net expenditure is within budget. Relevant information about expenses was shared with executives & GSS staff.
4) Working on selecting a food vendor for GLC building. To date only one application has been received and the HFC is working on involving more stakeholders.
5) Expenses for appliances and other items for for GLC building and GSS events were reviewed and approved. The majority of expenses will be billed to the Capital Projects Improvement Fund.
6) Payment plan for legal fees pertaining to review of rental agreement was approved
7) Health and Dental plan has been shifted to a fully funded model. Additional amendments have been forwarded to CPC for review.

5.2.8 Human Resources

5.2.9 AMS Caucus
- AMS caucus is currently in consultation with AMS president and GSS president regarding the impact grant funds and smart goals respectively.

5.2.10 Graduate Council Caucus

5.3 Senators and Board of Governors

5.3.1 Senators:
5.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

6 NOTICES

6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, Nov 16th, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Location: MK Forum

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

7 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Mover: Lily  Seconder: Tonje  Result: Carried