



ATTENDANCE

Present: Simar Nagpal, Aaron Loewen, Nnaemak Hubert, Erica Dharmawan, Mahfida, Maryann Rogers, Sam Kenston, Vignesh Krishamorthy, Ryan Mckinney, Parker Lund, Ihomehe, Mercy Gakii, Jonan Berean-Ducther, Porter Abbey, Nick Phin, Nurul Shishir, Mehmet Saglam, Anjana, Emily Tan, Kathleen Gill, Samia Ramin, Erican McFarland, Patricia Unung, Abhishek Somanagoudar.

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: Simar

Second: Mercy

Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President:

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.2 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

[October 19th, 2023](#)



Mover: Sam

Seconded: Abhishek

Result: Carried

1.3 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:		Human Resources Committee:	October 15, 2023
Code & Policy Committee:	Sept 26, 2023	AMS Caucus:	
Engagement & Elections Committee:		Graduate Council:	
Executive Committee:	Oct 12, 2023	Health and Dental Plan Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee		All-Chairs:	Oct 13, 2023
Governance & Accountability Committee:	Oct 16, 2023; Nov 6, 2023	House Finance Committee:	Oct 10 2023; Oct 24, 2023

Mover: Simar

Seconded: Sam

Result: Carried

2 SEATINGS

2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Mercy Gakii	Public Policy & Global Affairs
Julia Da Silva	English



Mover: Kathleen

Seconder: Sam

Result: Carried

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:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Faculty of Arts Council	Ihomehe	Representative	1
Graduate Council Caucus		Representative	0
AMS Caucus		Representative	0
	Chirantan, Patricia	Member	2
Health & Dental		Representative	0

Mover: Abhishek

Seconder: Ihomehe

Result: All in favour

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:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External	Anjana	Councillor	2
	Ali, Amory	Ordinary Member	2



Code & Policy	Mercy Gakii	Councillor	3
	Mercy Ado	Ordinary Member	1
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	5
	Ahmed Ragib Chowdhury	Ordinary Member	1
Executive Oversight		Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	0
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	5
		Ordinary Member	0
House Finance		Councillor	4
	Sanjana	Ordinary Member	3
Human Resources		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0

Mover: Kathleen

Second: Lily

Result: All in favour

3 MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 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 November 2024:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Physics and Astronomy Graduate Student Association	Gabrielle Tournaire
Volentia Healthcare Translation	Lynda Li
UBC Late Bloomers	Joanne DeCosse

MOVER: Simar

SECONDER: Ihomehe

RESULT: All in favour



3.2 HONORARY MEMBERS NOMINATIONS

WHEREAS the following members have contributed significantly to the Graduate student society in the groups of their term

WHEREAS they satisfy the conditions stated in Bylaw 3.2.1.

BIRT The following members be conferred honorary membership in accordance with Bylaw 3.2.1.

Violeta Fabiani

BIFRT the GSS Council directs the Code and Policy Committee to update the list of Honorary Members in the Policy manual.

MOVER:	Sam	SECONDER:	Abhishek	RESULT:
				All in favour

3.3 SIGNING OF STUDENT UNION JOINT LETTER FOR BANK DIVESTMENT

Responsible: Emily Tang, VP External

Description: GSS agrees with the "National Student Union Letter: Calling on the Big 5 Banks to Divest from Fossil Fuels.

Proposed Objective: This position statement is needed to be voted on and to formally sign as the Graduate Student Society of UBC.

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Position Statement](#)

WHEREAS policy 14.3.3 allows Council to waive the requirement of notice for signing onto position statements,

WHEREAS the vote requires a two thirds majority of Council,

BIRT Council waives the requirement of notice for signing onto the position statement

MOVER:	Sam	SECONDER:	Emily	RESULT:
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3.4 PROPOSAL FOR GRADUATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID (GSFA) CAP INCREASE

Responsible: Sam Kenston

Description: Discussion and voting to increase the maximum allowable amount of GSFA from \$1000 to \$1500 as of 2024

Proposed Objective: Propose the idea to the council and vote for approval/rejection

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Presentation](#)

WHEREAS The office of the VPUAA, GSS president, and GM have reviewed and support the proposal as recommended by GSS advocacy team

BIRT that the Council approves the increase of the maximum allowable amount of GSFA from \$1000 to \$1500, effective as of the year 2024.

MOVER:

SECONDER:

RESULT:

3.5 VP STUDENTS APPOINTMENT

Responsible: Sam Kenston, GSS President; Executive Committee

Description: Election and appointment of the VP Students by Council

Objective: Hold election and appoint the VP Students

WHEREAS the position of VP Students has been advertised, and

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

BIRT GSS Council elects Simar Nagpal to the position of VP Students, to take office on December 1st, 2023



MOVER:

SECONDER:

RESULT:

Abisola: I'm excited to be here and party with solid candy. If so, I am interested in this VP student position because I believe it would be a good opportunity for me to improve graduate student life and gain valuable learning experiences. Some of my relevant positions include my previous role as the Vice President of the Muslim Students Association at UBC, where I catered to over 300 students, excluding faculty and staff. In that role, my team and I raised over 30,000 Canadian dollars for events and social activities, aiming to enhance the experience of students at UBC. I also represented the student organization at the Senate of Canada, advocating for improvements in student life. Currently, I am the chair of the treni omics group, where we support students with their research data and those who want to learn new programming languages. I have applied for grants for conferences, including one scheduled to start on December 15, for which I successfully secured a grant.

Additionally, I have organized workshops, seminars, and conferences. In my role on the training networking committee, based at a research institute, I aimed to connect students who might feel less connected to UBC. We organized various social events, including an ice cream social, to foster a sense of community.

During discussions with the outgoing VP students, it was noted that many initiatives do not get started during the year. Therefore, my plan is to assess current initiatives and build upon them. I also believe there are untapped resources that students may not be aware of. I propose the implementation of a GSS chatbot to provide quick access to information and resources for all students. This chatbot would be integrated into the rotation of each department.

Furthermore, I plan to propose a dragon competition that connects industry to the student experience. I am more than willing to elaborate on these plans during the question and answer session. Thank you.

Simar: Good evening, everyone. Simar, like a pot that is about to boil. I'm the chair of the Academic and External Affairs Committee, are we in the chair for a few months now, six, seven months before that I was a member of the committee. I'm also the counselor from the School of Community and Regional Planning. Before joining UBC, I was in India in the architectural field. And I served as the national president and the National Vice President of the students body there. And I was on the Executive Council for three and a half years. So I have some student leading experience. I've been in student governance for about a decade now. And this was exactly in line with it. In the pavement and External Affairs Committee for the last three, four months, we've been working on the student satisfaction survey. And one of the things that have come very evident is that mental health and finance are the top priorities for students. And I've spent a lot of time with the survey coordinator trying to figure out why that is the case. One of the things with mentors that I've come to realize is it is because of Graduate Studies is very different from undergrad studies like undergrad everyone has a similar kind of experience, even though their courses may be different. In that we've seen that you could have a course base to whatever research based Master's, you could have a PhD departmental experience changes a lot. And so that has a lot of specially in UBC, a lot of isolation attached to it. And we see a lot of people feel alone. And so my platform for repeat students is to because it's a shorter tenure also, but to try to figure out multiple streams for different kinds of students to get involved in activities and find a network and not just a standard pattern of standard events who anyone can show up. PhD students require different kinds of events and course may



students require different kinds of events. We see a decline in requirement of professional required professional training but see a more clear cut support of A lack of a network or a support system with grad students. So, we want to work on that. And with support of finance, we would want to do more events that could bring everyone together Thank you.

Ankita: So before we start, I would like to tell you that I have come to realize that the world has not been successful. The world needs peacemakers restored or leaders and storytellers. And then the alternative, housing 15 analysis a very good in a small city in India, where boiled whispered, it is just a girl wasn't meant to be. It wasn't those words that found my strength. It wasn't those words with when they found my strength. And I started my journey. And my voice rose, not in volume and in conviction, and I was chosen as the first female to have to have my school. From there on one of my victories, established my journey, I became the president of anti corruption Bureau for India. I also with that I also represented Minister of Agriculture National Youth for the metric presented by government of India. Furthering that my mother's passion for dance was a question and ridiculed. I didn't step back, I rose the platform and I actually saved every penny I treasured courage and I opened and asked to do dance studio and tap dance studio today is a safe haven for hundreds of girls who were told like my mother that their dreams were following that, in the darkest shadows of evil child sexual abuse, survival, the world style in the world told me to hide, but I refuse that I stood up and and I directed a documentary in collaboration with on child sexual abuse. So yes, I was always the girl who refused to be silenced. Simply I'm not standing here as it was two minutes, but I'm also struggling as a person who believes in the power of voice believes in the power of options. But I also know that with graduate studies, dreams and ambitions can be very draining mentally, emotionally and spiritually. So my suggestions are as follows. First is to bridge the gap between availability officers and utilizing of resources from resource directories, interactive FAQs. Second is initiating more programs where senior graduate students and alumni come together and talk about mental health challenges. For example, impostor syndrome, that we all know, is, has has played a big role in our lives. So we are establishing a diversity and inclusion committee where he was introduced from different backgrounds can come together to organize events, and to help events. And lastly, organizing, speed networking events are industry specific. And lastly, developing a bi annual survey for students to provide feedback on the supervisory relationships. So these are my suggestions. My list is long, but my vision is very clear. To create a more satisfactory experience here at UBC, where we make sure that we just do not maybe survive, but thrive, when do not quit, but rest. So if my boards resonate with you, and fire within you, please give me a chance to be a part of this journey with you all. And I would just like to end it with boys, Obama, he said that, let us help by seeing more than other people, let us help them find their own place. And that is what I strive to do. That is my motto, my mission, my pitch. Thank you so much.

Chirantan : Hi, everyone. I am Chirantan from MBA Sauder School of Business. Apart from that, apart from removing our snake deck from our business school, I'm here also to represent you as your VP of Student. And I must say, that was a lot of awesome ideas that from our, my previous speakers, and I'm sure that my rest of the candidates will also have an amazing ideas. But here's the thing, we all have the underlying agenda, that underlying underlying same agenda, right? So we all want the support, we want to help the graduate student community. So why am I here? Why am I bringing this to the table? So the thing is, I have been doing this thing since my childhood I literally create Did my student body back in my undergrad society from scratch, I handled an employee organization which proximately had 100,000. Members, that's basically 10 times of what GSS have right now, I worked from the Government of India for five years, that's the largest democracy. So I almost



scattered around 500 or a billion people one at a time. So I know how to get things done. And if you need someone here, with a short period of time that we have, who already knows things and how to get the things that we have left, and so you need me. So that didn't come very easily because of my skin color. Because of my background, I was often discriminated. But here's the thing I love, I learned about love, respect and collaboration. So that I know that brought better transparency and communication. And as my fellow speakers have said, that's also one of my priorities. But here's some important thing, apart from what my speaker other speaker says, said I want to bring is something about funding, I am from MBA, we have some bits, we have a pretty strong business connections. One of my previous speakers was also saying about organizing, business oriented or carrier oriented workshop, we know Sauder School of Business is one of the one in the forefront of that. And I can leverage those connections to bring more carrier oriented events and more transparent events. Talking about leverage, I have been recently elected as the graduate student representative to work with our incoming UBC president, Dr. Bacon. So I can also ensure to use that communication to use that connection so that not only from the VP student position, but also the whole, amazing GNSS team can collaborate and I can ensure that those messages can reach the higher ups of this university. So So at last, I have said that I've done this, so I know how to get things done. Believe me, I'm not joking. Let's have a wonderful couple of months. Thank you so much.

Ihomehe: I have an undergraduate degree in International Law and Diplomacy and a previous master's degree in business administration. I'm currently studying creative writing, clearing UBC. So I want us to take a second to think back to our first experience away from home. That's our first true experience away from home. For me, it was at university. It was my first day I was alone. And I was scared. And in fact, it felt like I was told to get working on shaky legs. Over time do shaky legs got more sturdy, and I discovered the power of community became stronger in myself as a student. You gotta inspire during this time to the involvement, where I advocated corporator care for students like me, sweats who also believe what do you want anyone else to. So together, we created a body system to ensure that no one else has to and it became a lifeline. It became a source of guidance that proper course academic, professional and mental species. Beyond that, I collaborated with existing bodies, to create partnerships that enhance enhance housing options and created spaces that truly felt like. So now I stay here or I stand here as your candidates for the PT students bringing a proven record of turning advocacy into action. So five months isn't a lot of time. But there are some initiatives that I believe will really resonate with students. So first is to don't want to be as everyone here has said, we know that mental health support is something that we truly need to feel safe. So this workshop workshops to be regular, and they've been focused on stress management, mindfulness, also expanded counseling services. So UBC provides a lot of counseling services and a lot of initiatives and people people are just not aware of. So my plan is to bridge the gap between awareness and action. Also regular fitness and wellness programs targeted at graduate students, to make them connect with themselves and each other and expand on their physical and mental well being as well as academic excellence. So it can pay initiative I have in mind is we used to live together based on their level of need, and asking them to support each other and lean on each other. This way they will be able to do the connection that they can lean on when whenever they need to, as well as an online resource called for academic MCs supports. So in terms of community engagement, in terms of community engagement, cultural awareness exchanges. So what I have in mind in particular is a cultural exchange program, or cultural exchange initiatives where students will be exposed to different cultures around the world and also be encouraged to share their own cultures and connect, as well as community service outreach initiatives that will make students feel like they're actually part of something. Then professional development workshop initiatives where students



will be able to collaborate with local businesses for internships, job placements and possible funding opportunities. So together, we can ship it, graduates, graduates community that sets the standard for excellence, and also the lives of people. Thank you for considering me.

Patricia: Hi, everyone. So my name is Patricia and I'm a PhD candidate in curriculum studies. out my passion for serving justice was first ignited when I was elected as the most active student in dresses. This one was a surprise for me, because I was just enjoying the social ambience in Jaysus, not necessarily knowing that I was going to be listed for that hour. And after that hour, Kim, I saw that it's a call for me to come into GSS, and services with all the passion and talents acquired over the years. And having been a lecturer for more than six years. And having also served as students will face supervisors in different capacities, I have been able to understand the concept of grassroots social mobilization. And when I came into justice initially, I think that was a skill I was utilizing to go to connect people who really would know that Jesus was there for them to kind of collaborate and make friends. And through that same skill, I've also been able to meet other useful friends. And in the sense that identified me to serve as a peer advisor in my department currently, where I'm run a lot of academics and social events for my department, and also represents my timing departments are important for students. So having had that portfolio, I thought it was time for me to come into justice and begin to exercise some of those skills in order to fulfill the social needs of our fellow graduate students, because I see a lot of spaces that have not been covered, and also see a lot of variations that could be obtained from already existing social activities. And being that I'm also I also have expertise in equity, diversity and inclusion, because it's part of my research, understand how to create equitable and diverse space, what all sets of justice students to feel welcomed and inclusive and included in whatever activity we're doing. So I am thinking of getting a buddy, if I stand a chance to get into this office, I'll try to utilize that court further to see how I get everyone to be on board and to also enjoy the kind of peace I find in the space. Added to that is that I recently I had a chance to have a dialogue with the current VP of UBC and and see Carrie and I on the concession we see a lot of spaces that I know are things that UBC wants to do for the students. But in a nutshell, grad students are not really aware of this. So we're thinking that this position will be a space for me to kind of invite executive members in UBC to come and have a dialogue, a one on one dialogue with student because they are ready. It's just for us to set the platform. And then we could have a negotiable platform for us to be able to get students to be linked to the resources that are up for them to get the right price. It's just for you to get to understand how to navigate through the data. So this is part of the activities I want to initiate if I stand a chance to win. Thank you.

Erica: Hello, everyone. My name is Erica McFarlane, and I'm a first year Master's student in the Women's and Children's Health Sciences Program. I'm honored to stand before you today. As a candidate for the VIP students were all interested with managing graduate student programs and services. Growing up I've always possessed a deep admiration for Educational Enrichment, public service and leadership. As a first generation student, I am to play an active role in a more ideal world and I'm committed to advocating for a more inclusive and supportive environment for all graduate students. My experience at the University of Texas at San Antonio has been a testament to my dedication to leadership, community involvement and inclusion for wellbeing, advocacy. campus and community involvement and roles such as a peer mentor and the Senator and both the President's Student Advisory Council and the Student Government Association have heightened my passion for helping people and transformed my advocacy, advocacy skills. I identify with servant and transformational leadership with the mission of shaping the environment by influencing and persuading others. With an altruistic spirit and a greater appreciation for motivational environments. I dedicate the majority of my time outside of



the classroom to leadership roles in roles that enhance student wellbeing, and student success. I firmly believe that collaboration, education and inclusion are the best ways to establish a strong leadership presence. And my wish is to leave these imprinted in the Graduate Students Society. Amplify well being the eight dimensions of wellness is a social cause that is close to my heart with a mission to make a lasting positive impact on the future of graduate student success. during undergrad I conduct a research analyzing the college students mental health effects of social isolation during the COVID 19 pandemic. This research contributed to understanding the challenges faced by young adults and enhance the credibility of my platform, while serving as the 22nd one from 2020 to miss UTSA are the current 2023 San Antonio Queen of Soul through rigorous academic inquiry. This initiative also has the power to potentially empower, educate and uplift the lives of students significant individuals throughout British Columbia. With a holistic and multifaceted perspective. I have the opportunity to showcase wellbeing for broader prism on a platform that's designed to advocate educate and inspire through collaborative innovative initiatives and programs. Engaging in authentic initiatives while promoting UBC pride and Student Success aids in strengthening community intelligence, community development as well as community wellbeing. Focusing on building community emphasizes the value one and power of all living leading with integrity challenges what is while looking to what could be. This position amplifies the voice of all graduate students providing equal opportunities to catalyze change around sustainable goals, allowing the Graduate Student Society to serve as a greater force for good. This opportunity can bring vision to reality while creating a just an equitable environment.

Speaker: So with that we move into the question and answer period. We have 20 minutes for that right off the bat. If we need more time, we may expand upon it. Just so that the candidates are aware when we do when for the first answer, we will go from slowly you will answer first and we will go across and then when man the next question that will be going the opposite direction. If you would like to ask a question, you may raise your car to be added to the Speaker's list. I've done it I guess all marketers say you've asked your question.

Margaret: I'm curious for all of the candidates, if you have existing grad student associations or groups on campus that you plan on connecting with to make any of your initiatives happen.

Abisola: So I did look into GSS websites thoroughly. And I saw that their affiliate organizations, of course, since I'm in biochemistry, I'm also part of like the chemistry department. So I plan to work with all representatives of the departments and council and executives. So I also asked, and I got some of that frequent meeting, like I said, Earlier, I spoke to the existing the current VP students, and it said most initiatives that are created or been started at the year, and I just really need to follow through. So that was what I said, my main focus for the rest of the month would be to connect, to connect students this resources, and that will be trying to see brainstorm with all the affiliates, just as affiliate organizations, council members and executives, to see if we can create like a chat JSs help like kind of the ones that you charge, like a boat, and then you know, for example, I need my scholarship, or I need help with scholarships, then, you know, we both can redirect students different resources. And because I used I really feel like it's always great to start initiating, but then there's really no point if so my notes, if, if when people are not aware of this resources, or how to use it, I believe there are many resources that are on the idealized, so if we can have a way of like, you know, making more advanced and connecting these resources to the student, I really need it. Also, like I was also thinking of like, you know, creating more reuse that engaging, I believe, like the last organizational that was part of we did create, like a reuse. And it was, again, getting an informative because we saw more response and more feedbacks. So I think



like, you know, GSS should create like a video whereby captures, students move in, you know, in kind of like a more casual formats, describing what we do in DSS. And then, you know, Muslims can really relate and know about these resources. So so just answer your questions. correctly, if I'm, if I'm like, whatever, for the VP of students, I tried to follow through the initiative that has already been set by the current repeat students, and then just try to read more connects more of these resources to the students and also to get feedback. And whichever ideas I have will be proposed for either whoever is going to continue with next initiatives have to answer the question.

Simar: Hello, I got my COVID Short and short yesterday. So that's the reason for a little lull. Again, similar in terms of affiliated organizations, VP students has a primary role in managing them. There are very two important flanks that I think will improve student engagement at large for GSS. One is getting the existing organizations connected if they aren't. So for example, personally, I got my organization connected. And then we had one, somebody joined as an ordinary member in the Ethics Committee. And they didn't have departmental organization as a part of DSS. So they got in. And then so there is one flank of getting the organizations that already exists and that are not connected to GSS. And the second part is where there are gaps and organizations that don't exist, and there is an opportunity. Which is if there's a core space to get MCs, our larger cohort where we could have an active Affiliated Organization of graduate students to find those spaces and activate those opportunities. Because I think those are the two major parts where grad students do engage with A student organization and that does help GSS get more active. Thank you.

Ankita: Thank you for your question. So, as of affiliated organizations, I will say that currently, I am a part of a collective and trans correlation, but all of the organizations that I'm affiliated with our undergrad student associations, and I feel that is a major gap that we are dealing with her as GSS. Counsel, because I feel that a lot of space has been utilized by undergrad students and we, your graduates in society need more space for student representation. And one of the things that I propose is having a representation representative committee for diversity and inclusion and having members who can lead events who have echo who have a particular expertise in that area and can lead discussions and events related to that. That is one of my approaches. And I also work as the news collectively for CIT or radio station here at UBC. And from what I've heard from students from graduate students, specifically, that there are little to no avenues for graduate students to come together as representations. So I feel that the overarching, GSS student societies definitely helping graduates of grad or graduate students, but under that we need to have more representation of students and subgroups. So that is my approach. Thank you.

Chirantan: So as I said, I am from Sauder School of Business. So we have already four master's program that are not affiliated not registered as an affiliated organization. So in my communication strategy, which is one of my first strategy, that is one of the first thing in my to do list. So I know that the inband program, the Masters of Business Analytics program was an Affiliated Organization a year ago, but they eventually didn't renew their application and the rest of the MBA or masters of management programs, they are not affiliated. So that will be one of my first priority. So I can get four Affiliated Organization in one instance. And apart from that, my wife is also a UBC student, she is an engineering, she has also served several connections with the other engineering masters departments. So these are my primary connections, my very personal connection that I want to leverage in this goal. Apart from that, I'm sure we have a wonderful team and wonderful counselors like you, we will have some friends and folks who you will chat with in your housings in your shared rooms. So we can go



through yourselves, we can communicate that with our communication channels. And I'm sure within the few months that we have left, we will surely increase our Affiliated Organization count. Thank you.

Ihomehe: So in terms of how I want to translate my initiatives can be kind of things I'm already involved in to translate them into action. So in green College, which I'm a resident of I am in the reading Committee, which has done a lot of community outreach programs, like books to prisoners, and book donations to local high schools. So I'm also in Green Lanterns Committee, which provides mental health support and the Wellness Committee, which also provides physical and wellness support to graduate students as well. And also in the academic community that supports institutional and community collaboration and the social community that supports networking. So all the initiatives that I have brought, there are things that I'm already doing on a small scale, and I really think we will translate to translate something that God is on a larger scale be passionate about and love as well. So I as your VP students, these are things that I will definitely push because things I'm really pushing, Alex will not be able to for me to push them on a larger scale. Thank you.

Erica: Thank you for your question concerning affiliated organizations. There are a plethora of student organizations throughout the University of British Columbia that serve as representation for various communities and populations. I'm a member of the student. I'm sorry, I'm a member of the UBC Black Caucus, and I'm also a member of the Women's and Children's Health Science and social organization. These are a few examples. And by connecting students throughout UBC, we can establish a great student experience strengthening the expression of UBC pride and as a positive connection through support systems guidance and networking. This can serve to increase involvement and representation and exposure to valuable resources and services throughout UBC. Thank you.

Patricia: So my name is Patricia Hey, I'm currently in my program where I serve as a peer advisor, there is a volunteer subsidiary that we are running, it's called the peer Body program. So the peer Body program is just a collaboration of other graduate students. So they could just find friends sometimes, or the girlfriend wants is just someone to talk to, I just don't want to take a walk with. And that's what the group has said, for us. Getting into this position will give me the chance to be able to replicate that in GSS, and could develop small peer body groups where you can just get some friends to collaborate with others and support each other. And aside from that, I also run this. So in the grassroots social mobilization, it's a cloud that is in progress. And we are sourcing our funds from the New Town phone, I don't know if any of us know but the new town fund, it's a kind of fund that supports small social groups. And it's also something I want to bring to the awareness of gratitude. And because even any credit student can collaborate with anyone just to access that phone, or you could create, it's a shout group in your neighborhood. So it's something that we need to access. And almost every president can do that. So using the grassroots social social mobilization platform, which is my own initiative, I want to kind of extend that into the chases, and also encourage them and also run a workshop on how they can assess the new towns in funding. A few months ago, I ran that workshop, partnering with the organizers, and they came into my department, and they offered the seminar and details on how to access the phone. And it's pretty easy. I mean, the protocols are very less, so we only need to bring that to the awareness of the students. And then they can access the phone to also create a social group in their neighborhood or amongst your friends. And aside from that, I've also been the part of the Red Cross Club and few last time we kind of set at downtime is and it was a nice experience on because I naturally enjoy community services. So that could also be something we could think about to initiate in Jesus, like community service group, that is really an honor. And then you



could get better students to kind of explore their passions, which should be for those of us who have passion towards community services. So with these three key points, I think air seven in this coffee will be a provision for me to be able to actualize them, and also draw the attention of the justice and graduate students to come in access those functions and be able to create social groups that are just around them. and vibrant. And I mean, the social groups are really good ways. They're a good good antidote to mental health, like I could, I mean, sometimes it would just need someone to talk to, and they that's the essence of that's a child, not necessarily someone you could share thriving with someone just chat about Kegel. So that's the essence of grassroots mobilization.

Sam: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, considering this position would be only for five months. There'll be a lot of learning curve and adjustment to do. I just want to know what has been your involvement with the GSS. Since you joined UBC, what has been your participation in GSS? Effects? How have you? What role have you played? Have you done since you joined UBC.

Patricia: So when I came into UBC four years ago, I found justice to be a social space that could connect and then began it in the grassroots. It's just something that is in me like quality, we are inviting and inviting into that. Got it. Got it? It seems like it's probably because games. Yeah, so the board games has really been essential for me, where I have been able to invite other graduate students to come in and experience the social ambience of that space. And I'm also saved on the panel during the orientation as a finalist for a newcomers into the credit program. I've also seen on a couple volunteer basis. I mean, there are five main I know there are a lot of offices in specific states. So I think having experienced all of that knowledge kind of motivated me to kind of want to serve in Genesis, because I've seen that the space is inclusive, and it also promotes a quick

Erica: I am new to UBC I'm from Texas and this is my first year here of my master's program. I do not have experience with this society. However, I'm interested in joining and I'm eager to learn more and transitioning into this position will allow for a greater The expansion of my advocacy and wellbeing, and that can be effectively translated throughout the graduate student society as well as other organizations throughout UBC. Although I'm not as active and involved currently, I would love to continue my legacy. I have a lot of active involvement throughout my former university at the University of Texas at San Antonio. There I served in leadership positions. For example, I was a senator and Ambassador and the president Student Advisory Council, as well as the Student Government Association, I was a part of the UTSA Ambassador organization. I also served as an ambassador for the university with my own platform about wellness and well being. I've also been a member and ambassador for the University Technology, both solutions Careers Program, and a member of various honors alliances and scholar li activities. Thank you for your question.

Ihomehe: Thank you for your question. So I'm also fairly new at UBC. But in this time, I have become a counselor for my department as the creative writing department. So I bridge the gap between creative writing department and NGSS. I'm also now on the Faculty of Arts Council. And beyond that, I'm also involved in several committees around campus, I volunteer a lot of the Black Caucus coverage for green College, of course, community outreaches mental supports, teaching local schools, social community in green college as well, because there's only 14 graduate students, and as to support collaboration using the police as the umbrella in my students in Jesus.



Chirantan: Hi, thank you, Sam, for this question it student and again. So my journey of helping the graduate students started even before I joined UBC, so back in India, I was almost helping every day and night to other UBC students. So we formed WhatsApp groups of around 200 Something students who are graduate student or ended coming to UBC, so I started there, I started helping them with Immigrations and other problem with the regressions that they have been facing. That journey didn't stop there. Because it's so close to my heart, I said that I have been doing this for over 12 or 13 years. So this is helping other guys helping other people. It's so close to my heart that even after coming here, I continued that passion in terms of GSS. In particular, I don't have any particular position or capacity as an executive, but I have been in touch with other committee members or the financial officers and I have learned about the working the finances. And I also talked very briefly with you also. And you have to kind to guide me about the workings about GSA so. So I learned that what I have done so far, it's called is more like similar. So I, I believe that I can be very helpful in given this few months left, that I can be very useful to catching up with this. Thank you.

Ankita: Thank you for the question, Mr. President. So regarding being enrolled in GSS initiatives, and I would like to say that I've been actively involved in participating, and who knows that invested there itself. And I feel that a lot of my ideas derives from the fact that I have seen and have been part as a participant in a lot of events, organized by GSS. So I do look forward to organizing some of them as well. And I feel that what GSS has done till now, and it has helped me through my graduate studies. And that is the reason why I chose this role for myself. And yeah, I would just like to carry that goes ahead. Thank you.

Simar: In the first week of joining UBC, I came to the pancake breakfast. And I got recruited to GSS by Ishmael, into the Ethics Committee as an ordinary member. I became the councillor in four months of time. And then I was also the chair of the committee. And in the committee for the last six, seven months, we've, I would say, revived it in a sense, which was following the last year but before that the committee was kind of dormant. So we have provided we've taken care of the student satisfaction survey. I have been very closely involved and committee has been very closely involved in dealing with the student satisfaction survey this year. So if there's a problem, I have to blame. And I very recently got the opportunity to go to Victoria with Emily and Sam and her son to lobby for graduates to Oops, on behalf of GSS at EBCs, and we got to sit in the legislature. That was the Thank you.

Abisola: So say a question. I have always been a member since I joined UBC. But it's also noteworthy to mention that I've been lucky with several donations with volunteer and paid. And I'm sure my cover letter already rings a bell or JSs. And support this, my claim of all is applied to anything related to GSS. I recently got the email down generously offered service the graduates today representative on UBC committees, which was why I was so excited to apply for VP students. So the past VP relations is my is my my friend. And he was always like, Okay, you're supposed to be on GSS, because I've seen all you saw, but we're all student bodies, and now you're always very active. So it was like, okay, she definitely move into JSs. Because we need someone like you that is very active and give you an alternative. I mean, any organization volunteering my time, I tried to, you know, leave on contributes more than what I proposed to do. Because that was how I spent all my extra time just voluntary. I do attend events organized by GSI, such as the game nights. And yeah, thank you.

Student: You've all talked about the amazing work we've done on other societies and organizations around UBC and around the world. How will your private tour prioritize GSS though for the next five months, if you are appointed?



Abisola: Thank you so much for that question. Like I said, before I applied to any position, I always take with my schedule to see that, you know, I have more time to do it. So prior to this, I did drop the position as the VP MSA student group, because I wanted to volunteer more at the GSS. So um, you know, that was why I played on guard the goddess Trade Representative, because I do have a lot of time after passing my candidacy. And there's a lot of time for me to volunteer. So my plan is I have enough time, you know, and I spoke to the past VP students and I kind of open to continue with his initiatives and do more like few engagements with like videos just to emphasize all the resources connecting the resources with students. I hope that answers your question. Hello.

Simar: Okay, got ya. Okay. And similar again, answer this question to one's back also. But I think Emily's answer was better. I mean, I'm moving into my final term as a course based student. And somehow, I front ended all my coursework. So I just have my studio subject in the next term, and I qualify as a full time student still. So I'm gonna kind of be I'm just doing a lot. And so that would be

Ankita: So one thing that I personally have fallen out and have been good at is prioritizing, and I feel some priorities are just not negotiated. And this was one of the reasons why I applied for VP for students. And I definitely aim to over deliver, if that makes sense. And I would just like to say that I did. I did think about a lot of things that were at hand and a lot of commitments that I had, but I definitely chose this as one of my priorities. And as I said it'd be normally shipping from my say thank you.

Chirantan: Thank you again for asking this question is very important to me because I have been working to some extent, the role that VP student does NGSS for our MBA school. So some kind of work that I've been doing, I will be contrary will continue to do. So that will not be an issue in prioritizing because I am already doing some kind of work for around 500 students now it will be 10,000 students. So that will be the difference in one phrase, there is another part of answer to that. That's my in terms of my coursework and MBA student or finishes the most hectic part of their coursework by October so that's in my case already is finished. So I am just waiting for I'm just applying for internships. Same blind for my specialized tracks. So these are in terms of my coursework, so I have enough time to cater to all the queries or all the workings of GSS. In terms of APM students, thank you.

Ihomehe: So across all the committees I'm involved in, I work with amazing people that will be definitely definitely be able to carry on demand to if I drop off my position or take on a smaller role. And I'm very big on time management in terms of my commitments, because there's no point in spreading yourself so thin that nobody gets a feel of you. So VP, GSS will be my job, not just something that I am interested in. So I'll definitely commit all my time and energy to making sure that I speak on the best possible quotes I can with joke.

Erica: Thank you for your question. I know that time management is essential for this role, as well as advanced self efficacy and leadership efficacy. I know that God bless you, I know that building trust will take time. And that's essential for establishing 30 connections throughout the graduate students society. However, through collaborative innovative initiatives and programs, I will have the ability to establish trust within the Graduate Student Society and beyond. So thank you.

Patricia: So my name is Patricia, and thanks for your question. I think prioritizing time has long been my problem probably seems when I joined UVC, because I'm always really jealous. And to cut that off, instead, I end



the GSS was artistic. And while I was writing my comprehensive exams, I mean, I got it in the middle of that. So I was still active, even though I was writing my comprehensive exams, I can feel wants to my proposal. So you know, as much as I was really involved in deep academic activity, it didn't stop me from attending justice, activity and being active in the society. So if I wasn't even saving a pollution, then and I had a lot of academic activity to attend to, and then I was active, how but now that I've completed my academic activities, and I and my research is well placed on I'm just going to go with my research only. So that makes it it kind of motivation for me to come up to this platform to serve in this office, because I now know that I have more time to pursue the passion that actually drew me to Jesus. So I think I am well positioned. And my priority has always been Jesus, because I've always been active in Jesus, despite the fact that I wasn't even contending for a position. And I was also involved in academic activities. So now that I have given less academic work, I think I have even more time to be engaged in this service.

Emily: So now that I have heard a little bit about like your strengths, like can I kind of dig into some of your weaknesses? And then like, how do you kind of deal with difficulties that will arise on this in this position, because I was in your shoes like a month ago, and this position is a lot and there's a lot of difficulties that you have to face every day.

Patricia: Thank you in My name is Patricia once more. So having said as a welfare officer. When I was working as a lecturer in our supervising student activities, I encountered difficult challenges, and it was always my responsibility to solve them. And through the abilities that were in need, I was able to resolve all of them amicably. There's something we call dialogue. And it's something we call negotiation. And there's something we call strategies. So when once you understand these three key points, you will definitely be able to navigate any challenge smoothly and come to a team that struggle to the parties involved. So having been that I've been able to utilize these skills for more than five years. I think it wouldn't be a problem for me to apply them in this position. Yeah, thank you.

Erica: Thank you for your question. I'm Erica. Once again. I will start with one of my weaknesses being overthinking which I'm sure we all have in common at times, but that's okay. That serves as motivation for me because through through I'm sorry, through well being there are avenues to express that effectively for not just myself but others throughout the graduate students society as well. With the holistic and multifaceted perspective, I plan to further my platform to wellness and well being and there are eight dimensions which are mutually codependent. So even neglecting one can have adverse effects within not only my human experience, but everyone else is here as well. And so to overcome overthinking, I place a priority Your Wellness and well being, which not only impacts me, because the way that you feel will always impact others, whether you know it or not.

Ihomehe: So like Erica, my weakness is also overthinking. But because I recognize this, I have developed ways to come around that. First of all, I know that it's not possible to prepare for every single situation, and they're always going to surprise you. So what I'll do when I come in contact with those type of situations, I will take a step back and assess evaluate nature, impact of two, those kinds of setbacks, stay calm. Learn from it, see what I can take out from what I can improve. And of course, seek feedback or seek guidance from people that are already there are people that my peers that have gone through those kinds of setbacks, and adjust my approach and in turn, set realistic goals and prioritize and plan and plan and plan again, and utilize resources



available for kids to be able to do the job properly. And of course, stay flexible, and celebrate the small wins I'm able to have.

Chirantan: Hi, Emily, thank you for your question I've just done again. So we have a movie, watch that movie called The accountant. So the protagonist of that movie The the show, he was always saying that I'm not finished. So that's what my weakness is. Whenever I'm not finished with anything, I always get frustrated. So so that the reason I'm telling you this, and the solution for this is, we have this wonderful team, including you, including all of these wonderful counselors. So I think that would not be a problem in this case. Because I remember when I was handling, my employer organization, I, at one instant I used to receive phone calls after phone calls continuously for a night for multiple nights. So even that even at that time, I had a wonderful team to support me to encourage me to go on with it to finish the task. And I am sure I'm purely hopeful that you being a wonderful person and all the other wonderful persons here. With your help we can all we can achieve any task that we want. Thank you.

Ankita: Thank you so much for your question, Emily. So honestly, the question this question has been a prominent question a lot of interviews. And to be very honest, the more I introspect, and the more I've applied myself in various positions, I have realized that choosing a position for yourself that does not actually align with your weaknesses should be the priority. And the way I look at it, the way I look at BP for students position is, if you look at it, from a perspective, that is building relations, and actualizing your vision, I feel that my weaknesses will not be at play here, because I did not choose this for myself, because I knew that a lot of weaknesses that I have are not in alignment with this job description for sure. So thank you.

Simar: Hello, simar again. No one's escape. Yeah. In terms of weakness, I would like people who would say my weaknesses I overshare at times. And then just sometimes make I don't think it's a weakness, but sometimes it makes for an awkward conversation. But in terms of the team work, as Jonathan was saying, in stone governance, one thing that have become very stone suborder off is the team and that if it's good team,

everyone covers up each other's weaknesses. And it makes a more fulfilling experience for everyone. And I've worked with everyone on the on the table here for some time, and I think they're nice people, and we would work together.

Abisola: So my weakness, I'll probably say that that will be taken off rows of team members are truly it does. Why recently learned from my predecessor, who was the former chairperson that took that I should, you know, be more was caught like she does appreciate them more, which is what I've been currently doing. So what I do is that I give enough timeline and gently remind the team members with personnel onboard messages and extensively appreciating them on each team meeting and personally, you know, the more you thank them for completing a task, I find that they are eager to do the next one. And I also itemize role during the meetings I would always ask that Okay, are you able to undo this task? If you need any help you can reach out to me or any of the team members because some times you know, I just really want to get things done. And I'm like, Okay, if somebody's slowing down, I'll just pick up distro tick of distro tick of distro, because I like to get, you know, to really get things that we've said or we've planned to try to see done. So, you know, I've learned to slow things slow down, you know, try to encourage them and be more like participating. Thank you.



4 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 STUDENT RESOURCES PAGE

Responsible: Sam Kenston

Objective: To share the GSS Student Resources Page

Time: 5 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Student Resource](#)

5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

5.1 EXECUTIVES

5.1.1 President:

5.1.2 Financial Officer



-
- Documented PIA (Privacy Impact Assessment) clearance to use all the existing and new accounting software's
 - Onboarding with new accounting firm has begun and meetings between the old and new firms are being held to finalize transfer
 - Audit draft review
 - Follow-up on unknown and missing transactions from credit card holders' expenses

5.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

5.1.4 VP External Relations

5.1.5 VP Students

5.2 COMMITTEES

5.2.1 Academic & External Committee

5.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

CPC has been working on setting up SMART Goals for the upcoming year, reviewing health and dental plan caucus terms of reference, and working with EOC for their conflict resolution policy work.

5.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

5.2.4 Executive Committee



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5.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

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5.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

G&A SMART goals, committee/caucus SMART goals (end of term and first drafts), review KPIs

5.2.7 House Finance Committee

- 1) Multiple expenditure approvals for the GLC building (appliances and opening event) were approved
- 2) Onboarding with new accounting firm has begun and meetings between the old and new firms are being held to finalize transfer
- 3) HFC is working on SMART goals for 2023-2024 and should be completed soon
- 4) New web hosting service for the GSS website has been finalized.
- 5) Many Work Learn (WL) students require additional hours to complete tasks while other WL students do not have enough tasks to fill in the number of hours allocated for their position. Executives and staff members have been asked to review the number of hours required by the WL students. Accurate estimate of required hours would help budget GSS finances.

5.2.8 Human Resources

ITEM 1 [Discussion]

GSS Events Manager, Anna Bosgra's has passed her probation period

ITEM 2 [Discussion] WL W23 Hiring, Onboarding Training and first month survey

ITEM 3 [Discussion] Two execs members resignation-VP External and VP Students

ITEM 4 [Decision] Extend HR Consultant 's hours of working

ITEM 5 [Decision] 5 GM's request for the professional development training

5.2.9 AMS Caucus

5.2.10 Graduate Council Caucus



5.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.3.1 Senators:

-

5.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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6 NOTICES

6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, Dec 14th 2023 at 5:30 pm

Location: Thea Koerner House

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

7 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Mover:

Seconder:

Result: