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 5:31 pm.

1.2 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Emily Seconder: Daemon Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered today on the land of the Musqueam and we are also committed to Canada’s reconciliation. And as we study work on this campus, we want to remind ourselves that we are an invited inhabitants of this territory, and we shall endeavor to keep the traditions of this land. Thank you.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

EXPEDITED MATTERS

1.2 UBC CAREER CENTER
Responsible: Tony Botelho

Time: 10 minutes

Description: Present new vision of the Career Center

Objective: Provide a general overview and hear input from graduate students

Discussion

Julia: I will say in nursing right now, it's, it's quite easy to come across the job. But I know, for international students, they struggle a lot. Just because the licensing process is challenging. So I think if you guys had supports specifically directed for international students who are trying to make it here, it would be much appreciated.

Tony: I think international students is one of the we've definitely recognized all sorts of specific needs, once they get here. One of the things we've identified as things around how to transition from school to work is by nature, cultural. And so they weren't coming from somewhere outside of Canada, their approach to how when plants are, by definition would be different. So we'd be very conscious of that. And then, and then there's also small sea culture, how works in in a professional, regulated profession, like nursing compared to some of the other fields would also be different. So thank you for your question.

Anjana: I just had a quick question about like, contacting the center, like, Who would we if we wanted to host some sort of event or some sort of thing for our department per se? Like, how would that work?

Tony: When a program is designed, yeah, I think that's the ideal. I know, at some point, we we actually talked about our office, and we're still in conversations with GPS, in terms of actually doing a bit of a, an environmental scan, and finding out what is actually what does exist in terms of professional development in terms of either more formal or informal within various programs. My sense is, again, I'm still relatively new to the campus is that there are some more professional oriented programs where there's a lot more thought has been put into this. And then I would say, some of the more academic, graduate and PhD programs, perhaps has been less thought, again, I'm generalizing. But that's been my experience at other institutions. And one of the things I would say is, and one of the, I'll take a step back to when I was at private previously worked at Simon Fraser, and we had some programs with graduate students. And the issue of skills came up quite a bit, when we're looking at designing programs. And one of the approaches that we took is that, obviously, skills are important. But there can be a real emphasis on skills. And when we were noticing the graduate schools who were struggling students who were struggling to transition, it wasn't a lack of skill. Right? You were some of the most highly skilled people in the in the province. What it was, was a lack of strategy often and knowing, you know, okay, how do I use this time? How do I use my time? How do I use the experience out of the fact that I have to do some research and sort of packaging it in a more strategic way. And then having just even some, some tools, and some guidance in terms of how to structure their time that we actually found that that was more valuable. And then once they did that, then it was easier also to identify where there might be some skill gaps and be more focused. So I can imagine, at some point that we need a direction like that moving forward. Does that sound?
Emily: So I have a question about like, financial literacy and like budgeting, because that's kind of like, in careers and like, some people like will get a job, and they're like, oh, I don't know how to spend my money, you know.

Tony: I would say that the financial literacy piece, you're speaking to be largely enrollment services. They're an incredible team, they do a lot of support with that. And there are also sessions again, under pathways to success around that. Our team does do sessions on labor market information, because I think a piece of this might be if I get this job plausibly how much money will I make versus other jobs and doctrine, certainly, informed decision making. And I do also offer a number of sessions on negotiating job offers, I think that fits with those pieces as well. But if it is, as you said, about kind of the mechanics of budgeting, I would say enrollment services are a wonderful team.

Margaret: I guess I'm kind of curious if there's a cross section of students that you miss, from departments that have graduation times that are longer than students have funding for kind of going along with Dylan's comment about people struggling to finish the average time to graduation. And zoology is about five to six years, but funding is about for four. So a lot of students I feel like in those last two years are just kind of struggling to figure out how they're going to finish with a paycheck, and less focus on thinking longer term about their career goals.

Tony: So, yes, I meet with students really regularly where that is exactly the impetus for them to initially come in. And I will say my approach to a lot of advising, and I think the center is overall is short term, medium term, longer term. So that individual who may just be at the end of their funding, short term, what do they need to feel stable and empowered, medium term? What is the remainder of their degree going to look like? And then longer term kind of thinking about what happens after that. But absolutely, if someone is in immediate financial need for any reason, whether that's changing personal circumstances, and the funding, etc, are always really happy to talk about that, as well as the longer term pieces. And I want you to know that I've heard a number of students to the GSS funding opportunities, and it's just really wonderful that that exists for graduate students. So yes, there are multiple factors, including, how do I have a long term interesting and satisfying career and sometimes really practical and immediate pieces that can be tied to the funding?

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.3 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

January 18th, 2024

Mover: Sam  Seconder: Emily  Result: Carried

1.4 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:
2 SEATINGS

2.1 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonje Molyneux</td>
<td>Educational &amp; Counseling Psychology, &amp; Special Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onyekachukwu G Odenigbo</td>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Smith</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dilan Sunthareswaran</td>
<td>Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angeline Wu</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Foley</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Council Caucus</td>
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<td>Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
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<td>Representative</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Dental</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
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</table>

Mover: Olivia  Seconder: Tonje  Result: Carried

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>Anjana Rajendran</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charlotte Edgar</td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code &amp; Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GSS Council Agenda
Thursday, Feb 15th, 2024 | MK Forum | 5:30 pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engagement &amp; Elections</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin, Angeline, Alexandre,</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mover:** Emily  **Seconder:** Kathleen  **Result:** Carried

**Discussion**

**Sam:** I would like to motivate for councillors to nominate themselves for House Finance. This is because House Finance plays a very critical role in how our finances are used, where we invest our money, the use of the new newly revamped GRC and several other financial decision of the society. Currently we have, we will be listening to the financial statement pretty soon. And we also have a need for adjusting the graduate student financial aid houses security a few months ago, we came here and asked Council to approve for increment, just to say House Finance plays a very critical role in how your money our money is used. And therefore I would like to encourage we need counselors on that committee, so that we will be making sure our finances are used in the right way. So I would like to highly motivate and encourage counselors here to nominate themselves for us. Thank you.

**Abhi:** Yeah, so in House Finance Committee, as Sam said, we discuss most of the transaction related issues. Just not issues also bring up new initiatives if GSS wants to implement. Apart from that, I'd also like to ask Olivia, if she has a few words to motivate others, because even she was new to the House Finance Committee. She was new to finance. But just to give some motivation so that others can join.

**Olivia:** Thanks, Abby, I honestly highly recommend joining us finance even if you have no financial background at all. I came on to GSS and then was like, Where can I grow professionally. And that's where I looked at house finance. And do that I've been able to be a part of looking at how salaries are negotiated or how budgets are allocated. I'm in rehab sciences, but I'm going to go into an industry based role. So this would be very, very, almost like great as a resume booster later on. And I'm able to speak to it with confidence now. So join and our meetings are great.

**Aaron:** I will also say just in general, just kind of as a side note, signing up for these committees, you could still go, if you don't like them, or whatever reason doesn't work with your schedule, there's no obligation to stay.
Firth: I just got just motivate for my committee. Okay, academic and External Affairs just to compete with House Finance. We’re also cool. We meet at corners pub, okay. We, we can meet and drink and talk at the same time. This committee is awesome because we discuss advocacy, their directions, and whatever issues, you know, inspire you whether it’s something you want to tackle social justice, human rights, etc. Graduate student mental health. This is yeah, I’m more funding. This is the committee for you to pursue your passion. So we have two excellent people or brave souls to join this this time. And if anyone else wants to as well, please, nominate yourself.

Sam: I would also just to motivate for engagement and elections, even though there is vacancy for ordinary members, this is a great opportunity for you to nominate your friends. So not just yourself. The end committee is a fantastic one, especially now that we have elections coming up. With nominations closer tomorrow. They organize a lot of the events to both Meet the Candidates, give exposure to the candidates and also inform graduate students who are members running for positions. We also organized a lot of hiking events, hiking activities and a lot of engagement events for the society. When I first joined the GSA, as they were called the service committee, and it was the coolest committee at that time. So I would like to encourage you to nominate your friend or yourself to go check it out. Just like Mr. Speaker said, you can always check it out. If you don’t like it. Nothing bind you to stay. If you like it, then you stay. So I’d like to encourage you to nominate yourself for elections and Engagement Committee. And also nominate your . Tell them let’s go together to love it. Thank you.

2.4 CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Chair seatings be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chirantan Roy</td>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firth Firth McEachern</td>
<td>Academic and External</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mover: Sam  Seconder: Nick  Result: Carried

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 Feb 2025:
Name of Affiliate Organization | Representative
--- | ---
The Association of Population and Public Health Studies | Maryann Rogers
Forestry Graduate Student Association | Philippe Ambeault

MOVER: Julia SECONDER: Tonje RESULT: Carried

3.2 POSITION STATEMENT POLICY UPDATE

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee

**Description:** A motion to amend the GSS policies regarding position statement policies.

**Proposed Objective:** To pass policy changes.

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** Policy Revision Form - GSS Position Statement Policy.pdf, GSSPositionStatementPolicy_2024-02.pdf

WHEREAS the current position statement policy is out of date,

WHEREAS the best practice for storing position statements would be to create a new home outside of the current policy manual,

BIRT the changes listed in “Policy Revision Form – GSS Position Statement” be approved as presented.

MOVER: Aaron SECONDER: Nick RESULT: All in favour

Motion to amend the motion to read “BIRT the changes listed in "policy revision form - GSS position statement policy.Pdf," be approved as presented.”

MOVER: Olivia SECONDER: Tonje RESULT: All in favour

AUDIT REPORT 2023
Group Responsible: HF Committee and FO

Description: To review and approve the Financial Statement and Audit Letter of 2023

Proposed Objective: To pass motion

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: Presentation, Audit Letter

BIRT the GSS Council approves the financial statement and audit letter of 2023

MOVER: Abhishek SECONDER: Sam RESULT: All in favour

Discussion

Daemon: I'm wondering about the Visa card is how is that managed? And how are the receipts collected? And going forward? Kind of how is that situation going to improve?

Abhi: Yeah, so to address that, we currently have around six credit cards, which are given to four executors and two full time staffs. Sorry, three full time staff. So it has seven credit cards. And most of these transactions we upload, and they do upload those intercepts on to our financial accounting systems. And so every month, we keep a track of that and if there are any unknowns, we reach back to these credit card holders and ask them to upload those results.

POSITION STATEMENT – STATEMENT ABOUT THE HUMAN CATASTROPHE IN GAZA AND ISRAEL

Group Responsible: Ad-hoc drafting committee (Firth, Emily, Anjana, Julia, Eddy, Daemon) and Academic and External Affairs Committee

Description: Motions to discuss, amend, and accept a position statement regarding the Gaza crisis.

Proposed Objective: To review and sign onto a position statement.

Time: 30 minutes

Supporting Documents: Draft Position Statement, Cover Form, and Briefing Note.

WHEREAS the Ordinary members of the GSS have not been notified about a potential signing of a Position Statement with sufficient time,

WHEREAS GSS Policy 14.3.3 allows for the waiver of notice by Council by special resolution,
BIRT Council waives the requirement of notice for the Position Statement titled “Statement about the Human Catastrophe in Gaza and Israel.”

MOVER: Firth SECONDER: Anjana RESULT: All in favour

WHEREAS the death and destruction in Gaza and Israel has reached a horrifying and unprecedented level in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

WHEREAS students are concerned that the Canadian government’s response has been inadequate, contradictory, and ineffective,

WHEREAS students have been affected by this conflict differently, may need various kinds of support, and desire to help mitigate the crisis,

WHEREAS the GSS may adopt a Position Statement by special resolution of Council,

BIRT the GSS Council approves and adopts the Position Statement titled “Statement about the Human Catastrophe in Gaza and Israel.”

MOVER: Julia SECONDER: Nick RESULT: All in favour

Discussion

Julia: I just want to say that that letter looks really, really, really well written. It's like, very impressive, and just good job to everybody who's involved in that process.

Emily: I have a question on editing the position statement, just a minor point. And one of the bullet points it says to hold on. Sorry, my eyes are hurting. Um, it says increased volume and access to humanitarian aid for residents of hostages and Gaza. So I was just wondering if we wanted to change that to all hostages instead of just the hostages in Gaza?

Firth: There was originally it was for all residents in in Gaza for residents in Gaza in general. But then someone brought up the point that if was that hostages in Gaza are also in Gaza, but they're not considered residents of Gaza. And in order to show that we're striving for a semblance of balance in this position statement, we are trying to address the critique that the hostages get left out of the equation or get forgotten. So that's why and they're also in in need of medical aid. Some of them have medical conditions, some of them are lacking food, water, etc. So that's why residents and hostages ended up appearing in this bullet point together. But it could be two separate bullet points, like increase volume and access to humanitarian aid for residents increased volume and access to humanitarian for hostages as well. But I'm curious what the what the motivation is for including the word all when residences when the word hostages applies to any hostages in Gaza?
Emily: I'm just saying like, because we have released the statement with ABCs. And then there were some Jewish students who came to me with concerns about the inclusive inclusivity of their perspective. So then I was just wondering, like if we were to put down in Gaza specifically, and then they might argue, Oh, what about like the hostages in Israel right now? So what about if What if we just put down all hostages in general?

Firth: Yeah, so if if we add all to all hostages? Yeah, it might be more confusing, because why would you add all tosses, but not all to residents? Also, those if, if you’re thinking of when you’re including hostages in Israel, or you’re talking about those who are formerly Israeli hostages, who were formerly taken hostage in Gaza, who have now gone home, and are in Israel, and need mental health support, are you referring to the 1000s of Palestinians who are under unlawful detention in Israeli jails? Who are Gaza residences, and West Bank residences being stuck in Israeli jails? So, but But either way, I mean, there's various kinds of people under detention. And I don't think that all will clarify that. Okay.

Anjana: I just wanted to clarify, I think when we were reading this point, we talked about it in our meeting one time as well. What we're seeing is that there is specifically a lack of ability to get resources to the people in this area. That's what that point is referring to to increase volume and access to humanitarian aid for the people who are there right now, who are there right now, the residents and Israeli hostages are where they're right now. So that's specifically we're addressing if we were to talk about all hostages, there are other areas where their humanitarian aid is being reached it is that they are not able to have it here. So that's specifically why we put in Gaza there. I hope that clarifies the point as to why perhaps all hostages may be misleading. But yes, I'm not looking for a response. This was just a acknowledgement.

Nick: I did have one question. I believe that when we were talking about this in January, and maybe think of an earlier discussion, one things we had talked about was getting the input of kind of relevant and affected communities within UBC. So Jewish Israeli, Palestinian in Muslim communities and student societies. I was just wondering if you guys had had the chance to talk with any of them about this at all? And if they were involved in the process of this at all?

Firth: Yeah, so we, basically, because we only had we only submitted this six days ago for, for the council to review. And we finally finalized it a few days ago that we didn't have time in its final form to have it reviewed by other groups. But we're also struggling with the thought of doing so even if we did have it finalized in at the right time, or like on time. Because if if, for example, when we went to one group, and they said, we want the we want all of these changes, and then we go into another group, so to say, you know, first we went to a Jewish group, and then we went to a Palestinian group or a Muslim group, and they said We want all these changes. We were struggling with what would we do if their proposals or recommendations were diametrically opposed to each other or even like not diametrically, but just largely opposed to each other? We thought we might get even bigger backlash, having consulted them and then decided no, we won't make these changes. is because we can't reconcile these, these these two groups. So we were concerned about the potential backlash of that of basically like false promises, we go to them Be like, Hey, can we want to consult you and consult with you, let's collaborate, I'm making this statement, and then it ends up being unacceptable to the other group, then we don't have, then we can make these changes, and then they'll feel betrayed. So we were that that was the discussion we had in our last meeting. But we thought one of the possibilities is, and Aaron kind of of replied to this in the email, in an email that I sent to him, which makes it difficult, but one of the ideas that we had in our ad hoc committee was we come up with a GSS Council statement, once we come up with it statement, we can
circulate it with groups for their input or for any changes that we want to make. And then at that, sort of revised draft, have it be presented that the AGM the annual general meeting, and then the whole student body can vote yea or nay on it? So yeah, so that was that was our concept at our last meeting that we would have a council version and then later a broader consultative version at the AGM. But Erin kind of said that basically, whatever be approved here will be the same at the AGM. So I'm at a loss for what to do.

Daemon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I did. The cell program has a newsletter that goes out every month. And I did put a plug in there for people to reach out if they wanted to provide some input on the statement. So that went out to about 50 faculty members and 70 students, plus staff. And nobody contacted me. So it might, I think that there is definitely a need for a consultation, but just warning that there might not be a lot of engagement, unfortunately. So maybe we can think of ways to increase engagement or if we're going to bring it up at the AGM. Maybe that's a good platform. Mr. President.

Sam: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few days, I have been invited not because of this, but I spoke about this when this was submitted, I read through it. And I we because of a statement that Minister of Higher Education and future skills development met and met with Canadian Association of Muslims in Canada over zoom last week, and also met with UBC. Jews, professors, students union, they want to use the FIA cornerhouse, I did informally talk to them about the GSS intent to release a statement, my feeling was that they advise we, as a neutral student body should be able to present a statement that is neutral that shows that we don't we don't take sides. And we are in for fees and ceasefire across board. So when the ad hoc committee shared this with me, I read it. And I thought this is as neutral as it can be at the moment. But I do also know that some students will reach out after the fact. So for now, I will say we can go ahead and release this and also vote on it at the AGM. What we should also be ready for is there'll be a lot of people who will they have reached out to us and say we also want to make this as your president, I will say we will give opportunity to them. If there was one to speak to council release statement, make statement. But just to clarify. This looks neutral for me when I read it. And I think we are not taking sides here. And we can defend that we are making a general statement without supporting or backing in a fraction of the group.

Julia: I'd like to suggest or motion for a small amendment to the same bullet point we were looking at before about access to humanitarian aid. Or maybe this is a separate bullet point. Um, but it's related. Just adding including reinstating funds to the UN RW a United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Just because specifically, and I think in the days since we kind of first drafted this the so that is the major aid organization that is able to provide aid to Gaza, and a number of countries including Canada, cut lending to that in a lot. Forgetting the date now, but within the last couple of weeks, I think and that's been kind of a big, like, one of the major calls to action that's being made for those in Canada is try urging our government to reinstate funding to that agency

Motion to amend Position Statement to add the following bullet point:

Reinstate support to agencies providing critical humanitarian aid such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, with appropriate accountability.

MOVER: Firth SECONDER: Emily RESULT: All in favour
Anjana: I definitely support the change to including other critical aid agencies. I'm not really sure what with appropriate accountability is kind of doing here. It's very vague. And I do think like, a response to kind of, like, you know, any anyone kind of responding to this statement by talking about the 12 employees is really just kind of like, the it's been how many weeks and there's no, no evidence has been produced. I don't think kind of including a really vague clause at the end is going to do anything in terms of satisfying people who wouldn't be satisfied with the fact that no evidence has been produced. So I'm not I'm not I'm not really sure kind of what the purpose of that would be.

**GRADUATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID**

**Group Responsible:** Advocacy Team, VP UAA Isha Gill

**Description:** To review and approve the increase of the GSFA

**Proposed Objective:** To pass motion

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Supporting Documents:** Presentation

BIRT the GSS Council approves the increase in student fees for the Graduate Student Financial Aid

**MOVER:** Tonje **SECONDER:** Emily **RESULT:** All in favour

Motion to amend the main motion to read

BIRT the GSS Council approves the increase in student fees for the Graduate Student Financial Aid in principle,

BIFRT the proposed GSFA fee increase by one dollar per graduate student be presented for approval at the next AGM and implemented with effect from September 2024

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

Daemon: So my main concern regarding this proposal is like we need to back it up with the actual numbers, what we are serving currently and how that is going to quantify for that $1 change with a proper backing or a survey thing. So that we need that for the support as well
Sam: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And this is just to inform members that we have talked about this. And over and over again, we come to consult, we talked about things, we go back home, nothing gets done. I personally think my term of office is coming to an end. There are a lot of things that society can do better. One of them is how do we sustain our students? This conversation about has been ongoing. For years. Thankfully, this council voted to impose it some time ago. On that meeting, we talked about how do we sustain this? What do we do? Is this really sustainable? Some people even when that is said, it is underneath morning, now, let's raise it to 2010 or 2000. We said let's start gradually, members of GSFA. And HSA sat and brought a beautiful suggestion. But in the meantime, it's already six months while nothing has been done. Can with consultation with HFCs? And even our fo, which talked about it again? And again? How can we increase that they finally came up with this simple suggestion? Let's increase 2.5 to 3.5. Let's present that to the council council have the right to vote yes or no? Let's present that to the student body. At our next AGM. Students body have the right to vote yes or no? If it didn't happen, nothing prevents us from increasing it further in the future if we so wish, or looking for more rare than with more resources to see how can we sustain this my personal passionate plea to you is we want to get something done in the meantime, or do we go back to square one and wait for the big picture to the dungeon eventually? I don't know but I will leave that to council to make the right determination for that

Aaron: I understand that process. But I will also state that it's saying that the JSF increase be presented at the next AGM actually doesn't mean anything, because it's not asking whether or not the AGM wants to implement it. So the implementation has to be stated somewhere there. And then you have to talk about what other subjects may be. And it's kind of a nothing sandwich, just because at the end of the day, if it's, if it's something that just as followed up anyway, with the Board of Governors, you can leave it in, and it's still true. But more importantly, it's the end. It's it's something just to at least cover all of your cover all the like, cover all your bases, at the end of the day. It's just that saying that implementation will occur after after approval of the Board of Governors. Not immediately. Oh.

Sam: I think there's an error there. Again, it's supposed to the implementation is supposed to be September 2024 is in the original text. So I'm sorry.

Firth: Just the wording be resolved the Gfsa increase be presented that you're just going to present it. That's it. There's going to be a vote, shouldn't it say the gfsc. The gfsa proposed increase will be presented for approval or voting. Okay.
5 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

5.1 EXECUTIVES

5.1.1 President:

5.1.2 Financial Officer
Audit Report Summary presentation 2023
Meet E@UBC to discuss on Ball room space for rent
Fixed the GSFA/HSA fund disbursement processing time
Working on unknowns and financial statements for Dec and Jan
Updated FO Roles and Responsibilities to CPC for policy change
Getting quotes for other Auditing firms for 2024
Contract review and approval for Oversight CPA firm to coordinating between Accountant and Auditor

5.1.3 VP University & Academic Affairs

5.1.4 VP External Relations
Met with AMS and SUO on an informal provincial lobby group with SFU and UVic
Met with President of CUPE on potential collaboration on international student fee caps
Attended the Premier’s New Year Lucheon to maintain UBC GSS and Premier relations
Emailed various MPs for federal advocacy on Tri-Agency council funding for Master’s and PhD students
Attended emergency meetings with ABCS and helped put out a statement on ensuring the freedom of speech in academic institutions and responding to the call of removal Minister of Selina Robinson

### 5.1.5 VP Students

- **Events**
  - Events Master to EA, Events Flow Setup
  - Promotion Flow Meeting w/ comms team
  - Website with Ethan
  - **AO Admin**
    - AO Sharepoint
      - Andrew for forms
      - AO Renewals awaiting Maria to delegate to IDA
      - PDFs for AO Event Fund Applications/ Post Event Reports
    - Guidelines and Instructions
    - Require AOs to hold in person event at GSS venues
    - Sub budget as per activity?
  - **AO Liaison**
    - Talking with GWAC to support and identify events that support ‘grad active lifestyle’
    - Filled in the paperwork for being the incorporated partner on a grant application for BGSN
    - Black History Trivia Night with BGSN
    - Reimbursement processed of value $2845.06
  - **Admin**
    - Website Review sent to Ethan
    - Meeting with CPC for VPS Bylaws
    - Organized Budget and Actuals for VPS Department

### 5.2 COMMITTEES

#### 5.2.1 Academic & External Committee

Membership changes of AcEx committee: Firth McEachern is new chair, Charlotte Edgar and Anjana are new members. Stepping down: Amory Strader

SMART goals and TOR of AcEx committee to be submitted to G&A Chair by February Council meeting.

Gaza statement reviewed and revised by ad-hoc committee (interested members from GSS) and anticipated ready for vote during February Council meeting
5.2.2 Code & Policy Committee

CPC has been working on updating the Executive duties listed in the bylaws and passing other miscellaneous changes.

5.2.3 Engagement & Elections Committee

Working on the 2024 election and retreat planning

5.2.4 Executive Committee

5.2.5 Executive Oversight Committee

5.2.6 Governance & Accountability Committee

G&A is currently finalizing SMART goals for everyone. We will be conducting KPIs at the end of February into March.

5.2.7 House Finance Committee

Auditor’s report will be presented to Council in February’s meeting

GSS is also looking at alternate Auditors due to increased pricing.

HFC is working in conjunction with CPC to finalize HFC policy manual. Draft has been sent to CPC.

GSS is working on rental agreements for GSS office space and also Ballroom.

5.2.8 Human Resources

HR Chair Transition
Approval for some changes in WL S24 proposals
5.2.9 AMS Caucus

Shishir is stepping down as the Caucus chair. AMS caucus has received some feedback on the impact grant from AMS, and the next chair will be working on it.

5.2.10 Graduate Council Caucus

5.3 SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

5.3.1 Senators:

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5.3.2 Board of Governors Representatives:

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6 NOTICES

6.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday March 21st (after AGM ends)

Location: Michael Kingsmill Forum

6.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS

Amory Strader was unseated from the Academic and External Committee as an ordinary member
Shishir Nurul was unseated from the Code & Policy Committee as an ordinary member
Shishir Nurul was unseated as the Chair of the AMS Caucus
Kathleen Gill was unseated as Departmental Representative of the Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries
7 ADJOURNMENT

**BIRT** there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**Mover:**

**Seconder:**

**Result:**