ATTENDANCE


Regrets:

Absent:

Quorum: 16 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at 5:35 pm.

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Bhoomika  Seconder: Parker  Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: Hi, guys. I would like to acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of, of well, here in on Bowen Island of the Squamish people. And this island is called also squat in, in, in, in the Squamish language, and as well as there, for those of you who are at UBC on the unceded territory of the Musqueam people, both of these people have long inhabited these lands, far longer than we have, and they have their own names and meanings associated with the places we are and just like us, to reflect on, on, on, the significance of this land for people who have been here for many, many, many, many generations and try and learn a bit about these territories And what their significances are to the people that we are sharing this land with.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1.1 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

BIRT the following Agenda items be approved as presented as part of a Consent Agenda:

- 2.2 GSS Council Minutes
- 2.3 Committee Minutes
- 2.4 Seating of New Councillors

Mover: Parker  Seconder: Emily  Result: Carried
1.2 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

April 21st, 2024

1.3 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May 3rd, 2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All-Chairs Committee</td>
<td>10th, 2024</td>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability Committee:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic &amp; External Committee:</td>
<td></td>
<td>House-Finance Committee:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2nd, 2024</td>
<td></td>
<td>April 9th, 2024; April 23rd, 2024; April 30th, 2024; May 7th, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code &amp; Policy Committee:</td>
<td>April 10th, 2024</td>
<td>Human Resources Committee:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>April 30th 2024 ; April 16th 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement &amp; Elections Committee:</td>
<td></td>
<td>AMS Caucus:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>January 20th, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graduate Council:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight Committee:</td>
<td>January 26th, 2024;</td>
<td>Health and Dental Plan Caucus:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 23rd, 2024;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 26th, 2024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.4 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daemon Cline (reseated)</td>
<td>Cellular &amp; Physiological Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bereket Guta</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake Felker</td>
<td>Microbiology &amp; Immunology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES 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 seating of the following external representatives be approved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee/Caucus</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMS Caucus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 COMMITTEE SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors shall endeavor to sit on at least one committee as per Policy 6.2.2. Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.

BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

<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>Jake Felker</td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code &amp; Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement &amp; Elections</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Oversight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance &amp; Accountability</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Finance</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td>Councillor</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ordinary Member</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mover: Emily Seconder: Maryan Result: Carried
BIRT the following organizations be recognized as Affiliate Organizations for one year, ending at the meeting of Council in May 2025:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Affiliate Organization</th>
<th>Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gynecologic Cancer Initiative (GCI) Trainee Group</td>
<td>Abigail Shore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell Biology and Physiology Graduate Society</td>
<td>Alexander Garner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Medicine Graduate Student Association</td>
<td>Hacina Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science to Business Network (S2BN) - Vancouver-Victoria Chapter</td>
<td>Pinhao Xiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africans and Friends Graduate Students of Acadia Park (AFriGS of Acadia)</td>
<td>Jean Makuza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology Students Association</td>
<td>Vriti Bhagat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Science Student Executive Committee</td>
<td>Holly Reid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Science Graduate Society</td>
<td>Al Rohet Hossain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Student Association (MIGSS)</td>
<td>Jake Felker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOVER: VP Students  SECONDER: Parker  RESULT: Carried

MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 HOUSE-FINANCE AND EXECUTIVE POLICY UPDATE AND RELOCATION

**Group Responsible:** Code & Policy Committee, House Finance Committee, Executive Committee  
**Description:** A motion to amend migrate GSS policies regarding the Executives and House-Finance.  
**Time:** 15 minutes  
**Proposed Objective:** To pass policy changes  
**Supporting Documents:** Policy Revision Form - HF and Executive Policy Update.pdf

WHEREAS CPC has been working to relocate policies from the current GSS Policy Manual into separate policies,  
WHEREAS the Executive Committee and the House-Finance Committee have reviewed policies respective to their committees and made recommendations for updates to align with current and best practices,
BIRT the changes listed in "Policy Revision Form - HF and Executive Policy Update.pdf" be approved as presented.

**MOVER:** CPC Committee  **RESULT:** All in favour

### 3.2 GSS FINANCIAL BUDGET APPROVAL FOR 2024-25

**Group Responsible:** House Finance Committee and Executive Committee  
**Description:** The Graduate Student Society (GSS) operates on a fiscal year running from June to May. Each year, the GSS Executive Committee reviews, updates, and presents the revised budget to the House Finance Committee (HFC). The HFC reviews the budget, addresses any corrections, and, once satisfied, forwards it to council for approval.  
This year, the HFC has reviewed the budget for June 2024 to May 2025. In addition to approving the budget, an amendment to the financial policy is proposed. This amendment would require all GSS cash reserves and funds currently held at Scotia Bank to be invested in cashable GIC accounts, with the exception of three months' worth of operational cash which would remain in a chequing account. This includes funds held in the CPIF reserve.  
The 2024-25 budget was unanimously passed by HFC.

**TIME:** 15 minutes  
**Proposed Objective:** To pass budget and amend policy for investment  
**Supporting Documents:** Presentation and Budget Excel Sheet. (Provided in the Council meeting chat)

WHEREAS the GSS Executives and full-time staff have been working to balance the budget for the current year, and WHEREAS the Executive Committee and the House Finance Committee have reviewed their respective committee policies and recommended updates to align with current best practices, BIRT that the budget for 2024-25, linked in this presentation and supported by the excel sheet, be approved as presented. Additionally, a motion is made to amend the financial policy to move all cash reserves to cashable GIC/bonds held at Scotia to be moved to Vancity Investment and Banking, with the exception of three months' worth of approved operational budget which will remain in the current chequing account.

**MOVER:** HFC Committee  **RESULT:** All in favour

### 3.3 BRITISH COLUMBIA THREE

**Responsible:** Emily Tang (GSS VP External)  
**Time:** 10 minutes  
**Description:** Signing onto the membership MOU between AMS, UVSS, SUO, and SFSS  
**Objective:** To discuss and approve signing onto the lobbying MOU
Relevant materials: MOU document

WHEREAS the “big three - BC3” universities work together to lobby on provincial student issues

BIRT GSS signs onto the MOU joining the "BC3" lobby group.

Mover: Emily	Seconder: Firth	Result: All in favour

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 SMART GOALS 2023-2024

**Responsible:** G&A Committee/Tim McCall (incoming G&A chair starting June)

**Time:** 10 minutes

**Description:** Presentation on committee/ caucus SMART goals

**Objective:** To present committee/ caucus SMART goals

**Relevant materials:** Powerpoint

4.2 PROPOSAL TO KICK-START THE “WIGS (WAR-IMPACTED GRADUATE STUDENT) FUND ”

**Responsible:** Patricia Unung (GSS VPUAA)

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Description:** In response to the many wars impacting different home countries of graduate students around the world, we in GSS sympathize with their loss and pain. This War Impacted Graduate Students (WIGS) fund is established to support graduate students who are impacted by these wars. In our last meeting with the UBC President, Dr. Bacon, we explained that most graduate students were impacted by different war eruptions in their home countries. He resonated with our concern and aligned with our idea of offering some financial support to those that are impacted. Initiating this project from our end will be viable in attracting supporting funds from sources that connect with this goal.

**Objective:** Present and discuss draft proposal of the assistance fund, approve in principle, and refer to appropriate committees for finalization of details.

**Relevant materials:** Document

**DISCUSSION**

**Parker:** I was just wondering, just as, like, a little more background information, like, what you envision these funds are going to be used for by students, like, what sort of things could they be used for that wouldn't be covered by, like, the existing funds? Or are you hoping, like they could apply to an additional to the existing funds, just a little more what you're thinking.

**Patricia:** Okay, thank you for the question. So I think the students can also access this one in in addition to the existing fund, but this one will be specifically tailored to graduate students who are experiencing active war in
their home countries, and these students can also access all the funds that JCS have provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

Kathleen: So I'm a newer councillor, and I was wondering how the information gathered for scholarships like this are kept and secured, citizenship status, refugee status and life happening in connection to a word really personal and can be harmful if it got out.

Patricia: Okay, so thank you for your question, and I would like to let you know that the panel of adjudicators, we train them for this purpose, and so there is a course that we run for them to undergo before they're able to operate in that panel. So every information is highly confidential.

### 4.4 MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

**Responsible:** Firth McEachern (GSS President)

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Description:** Present opportunities for being a member of high-level external committees to make a positive social impact for years to come

**Objective:** Write down names of interested councillors

### DISCUSSION

Emily: I would like to attend the sexual violence meeting, because my research is kind of in sexual health, so I would love to be a part of that.

Kathleen: Does it have to be graduate students from the council? I know of individuals outside the space who would be interested in have sufficient knowledge on the issue.

Firth: It doesn't have to be someone from the council. So if you if you can recommend someone, but who is a graduate student at UBC, that's fine. Also just contact me via email. Thank you.

### MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

### EXECUTIVES

President:

- Transition progress
  - Orientation
  - Technology and accounts set-up
  - Meetings with ex-president of GSS, GSS general manager, and GSS staff
  - Meetings with President of UBC, chair of UBC Board of Governors, and G+PS
  - Exec strategic planning
VanCity bank account opening

Financial Officer

- Training for Executives for accounting software (Zoho).
- Meeting with Bickert to resolve misclassified June 2023 budget lines.
- Entrepreneurship UBC will visit the Ballroom to have a look at the premises for rental.
- Meeting with CPA and update review and update on our accounts for Budgeting and Auditing preparation

VP University & Academic Affairs

- Meetings with UBC President; G+PS, Associate Deans for Academic and Students
- Planning of WIGs fund proposal

VP External Relations

- Met with new AMS VP external for future advocacy and collaboration
- Establishment of BC3, lobby group with SFU, UBC-O, AMS, and UVic
- Planning a Provincial Nomination Program Information Session with BC immigration office

VP Students

- Transition meetings, G+PS meeting for planning GradStart Orientation, introductory meetings with G+PS staff, Koerner’s Pub, UBC Board Chair.
- VPS dept meetings with Anna to discuss and finalise budget
- Creating AO listserv, updating AO status, developing effective communication lines with current/expired Aos
- Preparing for next G+PS meeting

COMMITTEES

Academic & External Committee

- (None submitted)

Code & Policy Committee

- CPC has been approving the relocation of several areas of the policy manual into their own documents.

Engagement & Elections Committee
Executive Committee

- (None submitted)

Executive Oversight Committee

- Engaging in transition process with the new executives.

Governance & Accountability Committee

- Working on SMART goals and chair transition

House Finance Committee

- House Finance Committee has been working to finalize the budget with Executives.
- HFC recommends that additional Guaranteed Investment Certificates be opened by GSS. Both recommendations are being presented by the FO at the May Council meeting.

Human Resources

- HRC has held discussions within the committee and with the GM regarding the hiring of WorkLearn (WL) students. HRC’s voting for approving hires has become a factor in the delaying of approving WL hires. HRC has discussed various avenues to solve this delay and look to receive input from the Chairs before working with CPC, HRC, and Council on potential changes.

AMS Caucus

- The need for a separate Smart Goal for the AMS Caucus Committee: The committee has decided to put forward the proposal of exempting the AMS Caucus Committee from having a separate smart goal like the other committees. The reason is that primarily the role of this committee is limited as an ambassador to the AMS and the overarching goal is the same as the goals decided by the GSS. Instead, the AMS Caucus committee has proposed to monitor all advocacy efforts that involve the AMS and send a report to the GSS executives on any update/communication with AMS on those advocacy efforts. The communication on this structural change is underway.

- AMS Impact Grant Fund: The AMS Caucus has been working on reviving the AMS impact fund and advocated its disbursal through the GSS. Hon’ble VP University & Academic Affairs, being a member of this committee, has taken a note of it and has
expressed her desire to work on this. The AMS Caucus committee will provide her with the past documentation and will keep supporting her with this initiative.

Graduate Council Caucus

- (None submitted)

**SENATORS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**Senators:**

- (None submitted)

**Board of Governors Representatives:**

- (None submitted)

**NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING**

*Date:* June 20th 2024 at 5:30 pm

*Location:* MS Teams

**NOTICE OF UNSEATINGS**

- Aisha Eldeeb to be unseated as ordinary member from the Governance and Accountability Committee.
- Linxiu Wang to be unseated as ordinary member from the Human Resources Committee.
- Binura Senavirathna to be unseated as member of AMS Caucus.

**ADJOURNMENT**

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:14 pm.

**Mover:** Parker **Seconder:** Emily **Result:** Carried