



ATTENDANCE

Present: Katelynn Hubenig, Aditi Adhikari, Amin Allahverdian, Anjana, Anna Bakchedjian, Cao Sabrina, Cesar Landin, Brendan Chia, Daemon Cline, Wilson Long, Akshara Gera, Emily Tang, Firth McEachern, Tim McCall, Hayley Lawrence, Jaxon, Jess Tran, Khushi Khandelwal, Parker Lund, Mahfida Tahniat, Michael Liu, Patricia Unung, Grace Phippard, Ryan Smith, Sam Carter, Vivian Tian.

Regrets:

Absent:

Quorum: 16 Councillors

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at **5:33 pm**.

AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Emily

Second: Anna

Result: Carried

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President: So, tanisi, that basically means "hello" in Cree. For those of you who don't know, I grew up in Saskatchewan, which is the traditional territory of Treaty 6 and the Métis Nation. I just wanted to share that little fun fact with you all. Moving forward, at UBC, we are honored to currently be living, working, and learning on the traditional and unceded territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil Waututh Nations. I encourage you all to continue the learning process, and maybe even try to pick up a phrase in one of the local Indigenous languages, either today or sometime before we meet again next month.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

○ APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1.2 GSS Council Minutes
- 1.3 Committee Minutes
- 1.4 Seatings of New Councillors



Mover: Cesar

Seconded: Aditi

Result: Carried

O GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

[April 17th, 2025](#)

O COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

All-Chairs Committee	April 11 th , 2025	Governance & Accountability Committee:	
Academic & External Committee:		House-Finance Committee:	April 30 th , 2025
Code & Policy Committee:		Human Resources Committee:	March 17 th , 2025
Engagement & Elections Committee:	April 15 th , 2025	AMS Caucus:	April 15 th , 2025
Executive Committee:	April 14 th , 2025	Graduate Council:	
Executive Oversight Committee	May 6 th , 2025	Health and Dental Plan Caucus:	

O NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Bhoomika Sharma	Law
Khushi Khandelwal	Public Health

O SEATINGS

O 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:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
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AMS Caucus		Representative	1
		Member	1
Graduate Council		Representative	0
Health and Dental Plan Caucus		Representative	0

Mover: Katelynn

Second: Anna

Result: Carried

○ COMMITTEE SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors shall endeavor to sit on at least one committee as per Policy 6.2.2.

[Committee descriptions and meeting times can be found here.](#)

BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Academic & External		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3
Engagement & Elections		Councillor	5
		Ordinary Member	4
Executive Oversight		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	3
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	2
		Ordinary Member	0
House Finance	Bhoomika Sharma	Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	1
Human Resources		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	2

Mover: Daemon

Second: Cesar

Result: Carried



O CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee seatings be approved:

Committee	Nominee
Executive Oversight	Connor Long

Mover: Parker

Second: Amin

Result: Carried

O 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 May 2026:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Experimental Medicine Graduate Student Association	Hacina Gill
Centre for Heart Lung Innovation Trainee Association (TAHLI)	Sunaina Chopra
Association of Canadian Archivists Student Chapter at the University of British Columbia (ACA@UBC)	Grace Phippard
Life Science Graduate Society	Al Rohet Hossain
Cell Biology and Physiology Graduate Society	Corbin Glufka
Pathology Students Association	Vriti Bhagat
Library and Archival Studies Student Association	Sam Carter

MOVER: VP Students

SECONDER: Amin

RESULT: Carried

O MATTERS FOR DECISION

O GSS FINANCIAL BUDGET APPROVAL FOR 2025-26



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.

Time: 15 minutes

Proposed Objective: To pass budget and amend policy for investment

Supporting Documents: [Presentation](#) and [budget excel sheet](#).

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 **2025-26**, linked in this presentation and supported by the excel sheet, be approved as presented.

Mover: Cesar

Seconder: Yi

Result:

Carried

Discussion

Daemon: Thank you, Cesar, for the presentation. It was clear and well laid out. Much appreciated. In terms of optimizing investments and leveraging the financial resources we have, do we employ a financial advisor? And if so, what have their recommendations been?

Cesar: Yes, we do employ one from Scotiabank. We recently requested the quarterly performance statements so we can review how our investments are doing and consider potential alternatives.

Yi: Thank you, Cesar, for your presentation. Very well done. I can also add to the previous answer—yes, we have a financial advisor and a portfolio manager from Scotiabank. We recently received some alternative investment proposals from Fidelity, and we will be discussing the potential to optimize our investments soon. I also have a quick question for Cesar. On the first slide—can you go back? The budget deficit is currently around \$52,000, right? Where is that amount coming from, and how will it be covered?

Cesar: Yes, that's an important point. Give me one second to review my notes.

Cesar: Okay, so as you can see, there is an expected loss of \$52,000 in our budget. Based on the current year's profit and loss statement and the May budget, we expect a surplus of approximately \$23,000 from last year's operations. That means we will use those \$23,000 in retained earnings and will need to draw approximately \$30,000 from last year's Capital Improvement Fund. This will require Council approval. However, we don't need to request that approval just yet, as we expect this shortfall to happen around late March. We will be able to fund operations until then without needing additional income. Of course, we are making efforts to increase our revenue, and if we can rent the ballroom out soon, this may not even become an issue.

Yi: Can I ask a follow-up question?

Speaker: Given that there's no one else on the speakers list, yes, go ahead.



Yi: Thank you. You mentioned that \$32,000 can be allocated from last year's budget surplus, but I see that the budget deficit from last year is \$92,000. Can we use \$52,000 from the surplus from the previous year?

Cesar: This amount was originally budgeted, but things have changed during the year. For example, there may have been rental income expected throughout the year, but that income stopped after November. As a result, the actual net operating income is much lower. The number I gave—\$23,000—is based on the updated profit and loss statement and the May budget, not on the earlier projected \$92,000.

Yi: So that \$92,000 number isn't accurate?

Cesar: No, that was what was originally budgeted last year.

Yi: I see. Thank you.

Thank you. Amin, you're next.

Amin: Thank you, Cesar, for the good presentation. I have a question—is there any legal or official document showing that the number of graduate students will decrease this year? Based on my meetings with G+PS, there are fewer applicants this year, but that doesn't necessarily mean a decrease in total enrollment. There was an increase in domestic applications and a decrease in international ones. I have another question, but I'll ask it later.

Cesar: To be honest, that number was estimated before I joined the team, so I don't know the specifics. It may have been an estimate from G+PS. E, do you have further clarification? Yes, the main question is about the forecast for student fee revenue for next year, right?

Cesar: When we created the budget, there was an expected increase in the student fee based on the 2.6% CPI rate. However, we chose not to include that increase to keep the revenue forecast more conservative. At the same time, we also didn't factor in a potential decrease in enrollment.

Brendan: Thank you, Cesar, for the presentation. I had the same question as Amin. In our G+PS meeting, we reviewed application trends. There was a sharp decrease in applications, especially this past year, but the number of offers and acceptances has remained steady. So if GSS retains a portion of the graduate application fees, then yes, a decrease in applications would reduce that revenue. But the number of enrolled students paying student fees shouldn't decrease. My original question was how revenue could be going down if fees are going up, but I believe that was already answered. I just wanted to clarify that point. Thank you.

Amin: Yes, that's a very important point. From what I remember, international applications decreased by 24% and domestic applications increased by 9%, so overall, a 14% decrease in total applications. However, as Michael said in our meeting, the number of offers doesn't directly correlate with the number of applicants. Also, we keep saying international enrollment is decreasing, but both international and domestic students pay the same GSS fees. A shift in composition should not impact GSS fee revenue, unless the GSS receives a portion of tuition, which I don't believe it does.

You're absolutely right. Another reason this was budgeted conservatively is due to general budget cuts at the university. We anticipated a possible decline in enrollment, which is why we did not follow the trend of increasing revenue projections. We didn't want to count on income we may not actually receive.

Mahfida: Since the AOO will be receiving \$2,000—\$1,000 per year—I wanted to ask, how much is allocated for committees? For example, what's the budget for GSS committee meetings? We have nine committees at the GSS, right?



Emily: From my understanding, there is a budget line for committee meetings. Are you referring to the meeting budget?

No, I mean, for example, the funding given to Affiliated Organizations (AOs) of the GSS. They're just affiliated—they're not actively working—but they're receiving \$1,000 from the GSS. Meanwhile, committee members work hard for the GSS and are made up of volunteers. Shouldn't there be a clearer allocation for the work done by the committees? That's my question—if AOs receive more money just for affiliation, while committees do significant work, how much funding is designated for committees?

Emily: That's a good point. However, the \$1,000 given to AOs is not without conditions. They must submit a proposal for an event that benefits graduate students to receive the funding. As for committee chairs and members attending meetings, the honoraria for those roles remain the same in the current budget. We are exploring the possibility of increasing honoraria for committees if we are able to generate additional revenue from ballroom rentals.

Speaker: Thank you. I just wanted to bring that up. Also, let's make sure we keep the conversation focused directly on the current budget itself, rather than hypothetical spending discussions. Those are valid but can be addressed separately. I'm happy to add anyone back to the speaker's list if they have a budget-specific question.

Firth: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick clarification: in our recent budget meeting, I recall that the remuneration for committee chairs was increased by a multiplier. There were two factors—one was inflation, and the other was an unspecified adjustment. So the honoraria did increase slightly. I don't think they stayed exactly the same as last year. Please correct me if I'm wrong.

Cesar: That's correct. The honoraria increased above inflation, by about 7–8%.

Thank you. Damon, you're next.

Daemon: The updated amount is \$163.76 per month.

Firth: I have a question for Daemon. Is that \$163.76 the current year's updated number or from the year that just ended?

Daemon: I got that number last Wednesday.

Firth: The number might be slightly more now. Do you know the exact latest amount with both multipliers factored in?

Cesar: Yes, you can see it—it's \$175.

Katelynn: Hi, can you hear me okay? Great. I was wondering if, given the budget shortfall, we could consider putting caps on the honoraria for committee meetings. As a chair, I currently receive an honorarium. I also know executive ex officio members receive it. But considering that execs already receive stipends, perhaps capping or limiting this could be a small way to reduce costs. I'm not sure if it's feasible, but it's worth discussing.

Speaker: That's likely directed to Cesar. Just a reminder: let's stay focused on the proposed budget rather than hypotheticals. But Cesar, please go ahead.

Cesar: Yes, thank you. I agree this is a potential option to address the budget shortfall. However, the actual impact would be quite small—maybe a reduction of around \$2,400. It wouldn't significantly cut our expenses by something like \$10,000. I also believe it's important to maintain some incentive for people to attend meetings, which is why we didn't propose changes in this area.



Yi: I have a question regarding the staff appreciation line. Cesar, could you please bring up the Excel sheet? I know you gave me a quick answer earlier, but I'm still a bit confused about the amount allocated for staff appreciation.

Cesar: Yes, so this amount includes staff appreciation events, such as the monthly staff socials. At first, when I saw the total number, I was surprised, but it's not actually \$2,400 per month. It's only \$244 allocated per staff social, and that covers all staff, including full-time staff, executives, and I believe committee chairs are also invited. In addition to the socials, this budget also includes birthday gift cards and farewell gift cards for anyone completing their term or leaving their position.

EXECUTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY CLARIFICATION

Background: While professional development (PD) funds were approved for Executives earlier this year, key procedural questions remain unresolved regarding how the funds should be disbursed and approved. Clarifying these points will ensure consistency and transparency in fund usage.

Responsible: FO

Time: 15 minutes

Objective: To determine payment and approval procedures for Executive PD funds and define limits on course reimbursements.

BIRT Council approve the proposed procedures for the disbursement and approval of 2024/25 Executive Professional and Academic, Lifeskills Development (PD) funds, including defined limits on course and program reimbursements.

Discussion Questions:

1. ~~Payment Method:~~

- a. ~~Should Executives pay upfront?~~ **Yes**
- b. ~~Should reimbursement be allowed without requiring proof of course completion?~~
- c. ~~Should reimbursement require proof of course completion?~~ **Yes**

2. ~~Approval Confirmation Process:~~

~~Who should approve the use of EPD funds, based on the guidelines discussed in the April 17, 2025 meeting?~~

- a. ~~Financial Officer (FO)~~
- b. ~~Executive Oversight Committee (EOC)~~
- c. ~~Human Resources Committee (HRC)~~
- d. ~~General Manager (GM)~~

3. ~~Reimbursement Scope:~~

~~Should Executives be reimbursed for only one course, or may they request reimbursement for multiple courses within their funding limit?~~

Process:

1. Submit desired course description, dates and cost to Financial Officer and EOC chair by end of May. EOC will decide on relevance of course for academic and career and ~~lifestyle~~ within one week; FO approves course cost within one week.

Executives can only apply for one course for reimbursement.

2. After approval, executives should enrol in and pay for course by end of May.



3. Submit a certificate of completion by September 1 for reimbursement by FO.

Mover: Anna Second: Katelynn Result: **Fail**

Motion to amend: Carried

Motion to amend: Failed

Motion to amend: Carried

Motion to amend: Carried

Motion to reconsider: Carried

Final motion approved:

BIRT Council approve the proposed procedures for the disbursement and approval of 2024/25 Executive Professional and Academic Development (PD) funds, including defined limits on course and program reimbursements:

Process:

1. Submit desired course description, dates and cost to Financial Officer and EOC chair by end of May. EOC will decide on relevance of course for academic and career within one week; FO approves course cost within one week. Executives can only apply for one course for reimbursement.
2. After approval, executives should enrol in and pay for course by end of May.
3. Submit a certificate of completion by September 1 for reimbursement by FO.

Mover: Catalina Second: Daemon Result: Carried

Discussion

Cesar: First of all, I'd like to apologize for not having added this item to the agenda earlier so that everyone could have had more time to review it. There was some pressure to address several outstanding questions that weren't resolved at the previous Council meeting, and I wanted to bring them forward so we can decide how to move forward regarding the use of the previous Executive Professional Development Fund.

Just to clarify, this discussion is only about the use of the Professional Development Fund by previous executives. I have also included a separate item in the agenda to discuss the creation of a formal policy, as there currently is no policy in place governing the use of this fund.

By way of background, I've reviewed the previous meeting minutes and will summarize them briefly. There was a motion during the last Council meeting authorizing the use of Executive Professional Development Funds for skills training, with a deadline for use set at the end of May 2025. The Council approved the use of these funds by current executives for any life-skill-enhancing



classes, courses, or programs, and established that the funds must be used by the end of May 2025, aligning with the end of the transition month and the fiscal year.

However, there were still several outstanding questions specifically around how payments should be processed, how reimbursements should be approved, and the scope of what qualifies for reimbursement. I've structured these questions in a very straightforward, mostly binary way, so we can hopefully discuss them quickly and avoid getting pulled into a lengthy debate about policy. The goal is simply to clarify how we should proceed with the current situation.

Speaker: Thank you. Just so I understand, Cesar, is your preference that we go through each question one at a time, treating each as a separate point of discussion?

Cesar: Yes, that would be my preference. I understand that some people may want to comment on the broader context before we begin, but ideally, we would vote on each question individually for example, on the first question, choosing between the available options, then moving to the second, and so on.

Speaker: Okay, that sounds good. What I'll do is treat each question as it comes and allow discussion specific to each one. That said, because the motion didn't provide explicit direction, I'll also allow broader comments where needed. For now, let's focus on determining the proposed procedure for the disbursement and approval of the Executive Professional Development Fund.

Let's begin with the first question: *Should executives pay up front?* Daemon, you are first on the speakers list.

Daemon: Yes, in reference to question 1A, as a UBC student, I'm required to pay conference-related expenses like accommodation and registration fees up front. So my view is that yes, executives should also pay up front.

Catalina: Hi. I agree with Damon. Executives should pay up front, and only after providing proof of completion should they be reimbursed.

Patricia: Yes, I agree with what Daemon said, but I want to highlight something I noticed in the previous meeting minutes. They mentioned more than just course completion. For instance, if someone attends a two- or three-day conference, it's not necessarily something that results in a certificate. Similarly, some life skill activities, such as swimming lessons, may not provide formal certificates. There could be other nuances depending on the activity. So I wonder why we are framing this in terms of "proof of completion" only, when previous Council discussions referred to a broader set of outcomes.

Speaker: Thank you, Patricia. I believe that's more of a general question to the group. Cesar, would you like to respond, or would you prefer to pass your time?

Cesar: I think that's a question for broader discussion, so I'll pass my time to the next speaker.

Speaker: Sounds good. Firth, you may go ahead.

Firth: Thanks, and good point, Patricia. I think it might just be a matter of updating the language. For example, instead of requiring a certificate, we could ask for "proof of course or activity completion," which could come in many forms such as a receipt, a photo, a medal, or a letter. The idea is to ensure the person actually participated without being too restrictive.

Catalina: Thanks. I think some sort of proof should absolutely be required, but I don't think a photo alone should be considered sufficient. It should be something more formal like a receipt, certificate, report card, or diploma. For example, in the case of swimming lessons, I know report cards are usually provided, and I say that as someone who is a lifeguard. So I believe there are always ways to get proper documentation, even if it's not a formal certificate.



Cesar: Thank you for that. I believe Bhoomika, you are next.

Bhoomika: Yes, I wanted to add something for clarification. In case someone chooses something like driving lessons, that wouldn't be completed in just 15 days. It would take time—maybe six to eight sessions, depending on the plan. So how would we be expected to provide proof of completion? And how long are we supposed to wait for that proof? Because as I understand it, this reimbursement needs to be completed before the end of the fiscal cycle.

Speaker: Thank you for that, Bumika. I'll pass the question to Cesar. I'm assuming questions are being directed to Cesar as he's overseeing this. Cesar, if you'd like to defer to someone else, feel free.

Cesar: Yes, I understand your point, Bumika. Given the wording of the resolution that was adopted in the previous Council meeting, the funds must be used by the end of May 2025. So, if we decide that executives must provide proof of completion before reimbursement, that would logically mean the course or program would also need to be completed by the end of May.

Speaker: Thank you for that, Cesar. The floor is still yours if you'd like to add anything else.

Cesar: No, that was my full response.

Speaker: Sounds good. Just a heads-up for everyone—questions will likely continue to be directed to Cesar unless stated otherwise. Patricia, you may go ahead.

Patricia: Thank you. Catalina made a good point about using receipts as a form of proof, and like Damon mentioned earlier, students often have to pay for conferences upfront and typically receive receipts before even attending. I'm just wondering how we draw a fair balance here.

Also, when this approval was made in the last Council meeting, some of my peers had already moved forward with reservations. Some professional development opportunities are bundled, meaning individuals use the PD fund to subsidize part of the cost and pay the rest themselves to create a more complete experience. In those cases, the full course or program could extend into June, July, or August.

So how do we handle that situation? I'll leave it to Cesar to help clarify how to balance those components.

Cesar: I don't know if I'm the only one who should be answering these questions, but again, based on the previous Council resolution, the funds must be used by the end of May 2025. That suggests that any course, class, or program would need to be completed by that date to be eligible. Also, more generally, it makes sense to only reimburse expenses incurred by May 2025, since that's when executives are still within their transition period.

Firth: In response to Bhoomika's question about when the activity needs to be completed and based on what Cesar just said, the motion from the previous month clearly states that the money needs to be *spent* by the end of May. It does *not* explicitly say that the activity needs to be *completed* by the end of May.

So just as a guideline, since we don't have an existing Executive Professional Development (EPD) policy in place, we're essentially navigating in the dark. But the closest parallel we have is the course fee subsidy provision in the HR Handbook, Section 12, which says that receipts must be submitted within three months of *completion* to qualify for the subsidy. That demonstrates that the timeline for activity completion and the timeline for reimbursement can be different.

Given that the end of May is only two weeks away, and that we've already spent weeks debating and delaying the use of these funds, I think it would be prudent to allow the funds to be *spent*—meaning the activity is booked—by the end of May, even if the activity itself continues into June. That shouldn't be considered inappropriate.



Speaker: Thank you for that. Before Cesar responds, we need a motion to add more time to the meeting. Caitlin is moving for 15 additional minutes. Can I please get a seconder?

Speaker: I see a hand from Omid. Thank you. Is anyone opposed?

Speaker: Seeing none, that passes. We now have 15 more minutes. Cesar, you may respond to Firth before we continue with the speakers list.

Cesar: Thank you. That was a helpful clarification. I yield the floor to the next speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bhoomika, you're next.

Bhoomika: Thank you. I just want to reiterate that we've already been in contact with the General Manager, the Financial Officer, and the HR Committee, and it's taken us about a month since the last Council meeting without any clear guidance. So now, if we say that not only must payments be made upfront but also that the course must be completed in the next 10 days, that's simply unrealistic. No course can be completed in a week. It seems a bit unfair to the outgoing executives. I would like everyone to consider that as well.

Speaker: Thank you for that. Just a reminder to keep responses tied closely to the current discussion items. The issue of timeline will be addressed directly in a later discussion item. For now, let's shift focus to the approval process for these reimbursements.

Would anyone like to speak to the question of who should approve the use of the Executive PD funds?

Catalina: Yes. Megan had asked earlier about who should be responsible for approval. Since it involves funds, I think it should be someone with financial experience. My suggestions are the Financial Officer or possibly someone from the House of Finance, since they conduct monthly reviews of GSS financials. In my experience, the EOC doesn't typically handle financial matters—they focus more on goal setting—so I believe someone familiar with fund management should oversee approvals.

Speaker: Thank you. Cesar, do you have a response?

Cesar: Yes. While I did list myself as a potential approver, I actually don't think the Financial Officer should be approving these reimbursements. For one, I could potentially be both the applicant and the approver, which presents a conflict of interest. I think it would be more appropriate for the EOC or the HR Committee to handle this, since the Financial Officer works closely with the rest of the executive and shouldn't be in a position to approve their claims.

Speaker: Thank you. Caitlin, you're next.

Caitlin: I'd like to echo what Cesar said. I don't think the Financial Officer should be responsible for approval. I believe a combination of committees would be better. The House of Finance seems appropriate, and perhaps the HR Committee as well. In the future, the EOC could potentially be involved, but for now, I think House Finance and HR are the most suitable. Also, considering that we're running a deficit, I'd like to see more restrictions added to what qualifies under the EPD Fund, and I hope that becomes part of the future policy conversation.

Speaker: Thank you. Michael, you may go ahead.

Michael: Thank you. I'm part of the House Finance Committee, and given the significance of this fund and the potential for conflict of interest, I'd suggest forming a small working group under the House Finance Committee. This group could be



composed of students with financial backgrounds—possibly from the business school—to help manage this. That might be a more neutral and effective way to handle these approvals.

Speaker: Thank you. Emily, go ahead.

Emily: Hi, I just want to clarify that we're still referring to the existing policy that was passed in April, not creating a new policy. So we should consider feasibility. For example, if we require course completion or House Finance approval, we need to ask if that's realistically achievable before the end of May. That timing is a big concern.

Speaker: Thank you. Jess, you're next.

Jess: Thank you. I appreciate this conversation. I wonder if we should consider a two-step approval process. It sounds like House Finance is well suited to approve the financial side, ensuring the logistics and legitimacy of the fund use. But there also needs to be accountability to ensure the expenses align with what Council approved in April.

Perhaps Executive Oversight could review whether the activity itself is appropriate under the EPD criteria, while House Finance verifies the actual transaction and documentation. That might resolve the concerns around both appropriateness and conflict of interest.

Speaker: I'll pose that to Cesar.

Cesar: Yeah, I think that sounds reasonable. And just a question to the Speaker: I don't know if we can modify this. I think I agree with what many people have been saying—that whatever process we have is going to delay any use of these funds. So maybe we should go for what Firth suggested, which is that the funds should be spent in May, even if they are reimbursed later, and even if that requires later proof of completion.

Speaker: Yeah, sounds good. I mean, as far as the motion goes, you all tell me what you would like to do with it. I am not going to meddle with that. I don't think that's outside of what's being discussed—it's a very open-ended conversation right now, and it's kind of tricky when you have these motions on the floor. But considering we're not talking about that in particular within this, we can always, if you can come up with a "Be it further resolved" clause and type it out in the chat and hand it to me, we can discuss that. You can move to amend this motion to include something regarding that portion. I'll let you work on that as I work down the list, since we have other people looking to speak.

Ryan: I'm actually going to yield my time because I agree with Jess.

Speaker: Okay, no worries. In that case, we will move to Damon.

Damon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the Human Resources Committee and the General Manager would be really well suited to this, considering that they already do the same thing for the Course Fee Subsidy, which appears quite similar. This is something that's already crossing their desks in a different form.

Speaker: Sounds good. Thank you for that. Jess, you are next. Catalina, I do see that you're on the list as well and that you've spoken already. You're just further down, but I have noted your name again.

Ryan: Seeks clarification on whether the amendment is a motion or part of a general discussion.

Patricia: Proposes a motion to amend the approval process to a confirmation process.

Catalina: Asks if the motion to amend was seconded.



Daemon: Seconds the motion.

Jess: Disagrees with the amendment, emphasizing the need for a check on the relevance of the EPD funds.

Daemon: Raises a semantic debate about the terminology of "approval" versus "confirmation."

Cesar: Suggests a motion to amend the amendment, summarizing the discussion points.

Firth: Calls for a vote on the amendment.

Result: The amendment does not pass, with a majority opposing it.

Catalina: Questions the inclusion of life skills in the EPD funds and suggests focusing on academic and career development.

Bhoomika: Clarifies that the council had previously approved the use of EPD funds for life skills.

Ryan: Agrees with Catalina and emphasizes the need for clear definitions of "life skills."

Jess: Proposes an amendment to remove life skills from the EPD funds.

Amendment is seconded and discussed.

Result: The amendment passes, with a majority in favor of removing life skills.

The amendment to remove life skills from the EPD funds is carried.

A motion to reconsider the original motion is introduced.

Result: The motion to reconsider is carried, and the original motion is reopened for discussion.

Final Vote: The original motion fails, with a majority opposing it.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

○ FEEDBACK ON STUDENTCARE POLICY

Name: Emily Tang (GSS President)

Time: 20 minutes

Description: There is a studentcare graduate stakeholder conference end of this month and GSS will be attending, so we need feedback on its policies.



Purpose: To deliberate Studentcare policies and to gather feedback for improvements

○ FEEDBACK ON GSS GOALS AND INITIATIVES

Name: Emily Tang (GSS President)

Time: 15 minutes

Description: The executives are currently working on their SMART goals for the year in line with the GSS strategic plan.

Purpose: To gather feedback for improvements within GSS (events, advocacy, etc.), to evaluate what worked well previously and what did not work well.

○

○

○ EXECUTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Name: Cesar Landin (GSS Financial Officer)

Time: 15 minutes

Relevant materials: [Document](#)

- **Description:** There are no current guidelines for the executive professional development fund.
 - **Purpose:** Have a brief discussion on the future guidelines so that CPC can draft a policy jointly with HFC and send to HRC for final review
-

MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

EXECUTIVES

President:

- Transition meeting and training with GSS staff – April 16 and 17th, 2025



- GSS council – April 17, 2025
- Organized and attended Councillor's retreat – April 18, 2025
- SMART goals meeting with the new executives – April 23, 2025
- Attended VP Student Gambier Retreat – April 28-29, 2025
- Attended GSS Gala – April 26, 2025
- Outgoing executive meeting – May 2, 2025
- Dr. Bacon and Dr. Ainsley Carry Meeting – May 5, 2025
- Phone Call meeting with Sophia from Studentcare – May 5, 2025
- Exec Meeting – May 6, 2025
- Approved Zoho expenses
- SMART goals deadline – May 8, 2025

Financial Officer

- Top priority:
- Ballroom lease
- First alternative (today): reach out to Forestry and try to negotiate contract terms
- Second alternative (this week): reach out to faculties again to advertise space
- Third alternative (next two weeks): real estate agent
- GSS-UBC lease renewal
- GLC vending machine
- Mid priority:
- New guidelines for the Executive Development Fund
- Work with UBC scholarship services to improve financial hardship fund application system
- Review AMS Nest funding, prepare plan for GSS TH renovation funding
- Budget review
- Lower priority:
- Fridge updating
- Speaker system for GLC

VP University & Academic Affairs

- Transition meetings and training with GSS staff – April 16, 17, and 18, 2025
- GSS Council – April 17, 2025
- Graduate Council (G+PS) meeting with Michael Hunt – May 1th, 2025
- SMART goals meeting – April 23, 2025
- Attended GSS Gala – April 26, 2025
- Transition meetings with Patricia (multiple sessions)
- Meeting with Dr. Ainsley Carry and Dr. Bacon – May 5, 2025
- Executive meeting – May 6, 2025
- GCC Retreat – May 7, 2025



- Defined SMART goals for VP University and Academic Affairs role
- GFSA May Panel Meeting, May 7th, 2025

VP External Relations

- Meeting with CUPE 2278 as VPX elect – April 6th
- Meeting with Solomon Yi-Kieran, AMS VPX-elect – April 6th, follow-up meeting scheduled for this week
- Transition meetings and training with GSS staff – April 16, 17, and 18, 2025
- GSS Council – April 17, 2025
- SMART goals meeting – April 23, 2025
- Transition meetings with Emily
- Executive meeting – May 6, 2025
- Defined SMART goals for VP External Role role – deadline May 8th

VP Students

- Attended meeting with Dr. Bacon and Dr. Carry – May 5th
- Meeting with Anna Bo (Events Manager) to discuss events budget
- Transition meeting with Bhoomika
- AO reimbursement transactions of Zoho
- Payment for pool event (for May 29th)
- Sent Emily SMART goals for VP students

COMMITTEES

Academic & External Committee

- (None submitted)

Code & Policy Committee

- (None submitted)

Engagement & Elections Committee

- Planning Go-Karting event for May, waiting on for the approval of budget.
Preparing a list for GSS events for the year for budget approval.



Executive Oversight Committee

- Drafted and discussed EOC's next year SMART goals
Catalina is stepping down as chair of EOC and has opened the call to all EOC committee members for those interested in taking over the chair position

Governance & Accountability Committee

- (None submitted)

House Finance Committee

- Reviewed and updated June 2025- May 2026 budget.
Discussed replacement of BMI with David Ding, role of FO, and fridge replacement.

Human Resources

- In-camera discussion regarding a new job proposal
In-camera discussion regarding an employee's work performance
Hiring process of WL S25 and the next steps

AMS Caucus

- Look into the agenda for other councils and advocate the same if required.
- Maintain an excel sheet of the agendas in other councils.
- Discussion on May treat.
- Re-elections- Student Representative at large for Vancouver Senate. Due to the inclusion of inappropriate text on the previous ballot, the University Registrar has assumed the conduct of elections to the Vancouver Senate and is re-doing polls in this election. These polls supersede those conducted 7-14 March 2025 by AMS Elections.
- Update on new members of the AMS Council: Gagan Parmar - VP Finance Solomon Yi-Kieran - VP External Affairs Jasper Lorian -Board of Governors Cade Desjarlais - Board of Governors.
- Attending April Council was not mandatory as this is the exam month.

Graduate Council Caucus

- (None submitted)



NOTICES

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: June 19th, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location: MS Teams (online)

O ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at **8:37 pm**.

Mover: Bhoomika

Secunder: Parker

Result: Carried