



ATTENDANCE

Present: Hayley Lawrence, Anna Bakchedjian, Aditi Adhikari, Mahder Teffera, Sam Carter, Paulina Malcolm, Katelynn Hubenig, Ryan Smith, Gautam Luham, Parker Lund, Bryan Buraga, Anjana Rajendran, Cesar Landin, Mahfida Tahniat, Brendan Chia, Jared Connoy, Kathleen Foley, Woojung Kim, Zeenat Shareef.

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 5:34 pm.

1.2 AGENDA ADOPTION

BIRT the agenda be adopted as presented.

Mover: Katelynn

Second: Parker

Result: Carried

1.3 TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

President: I would like to acknowledge that we are fortunate to be able to study, work, and live on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions.

2 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. 2.2 GSS Council Minutes
2. 2.3 Committee Minutes
3. 2.4 Seatings of New Councillors



Mover: Aditi

Second: Ryan

Result: Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.2 GSS COUNCIL MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Council minutes be approved:

[August 21st, 2025](#)

Mover: Katelynn

Second: Emily

Result: Carried

2.3 COMMITTEE MINUTES

BIRT the following GSS Committee minutes be approved:

Academic & External Committee:	July 28 th , 2025; August 14 th , 2025 ; August 25 th , 2025.	Human Resources Committee:	August 18 th , 2025
Code & Policy Committee:		AMS Caucus:	August 31 st , 2025
Engagement & Elections Committee:		Graduate Council:	August 29 th , 2025
Executive Committee:		Health and Dental Plan Caucus:	
Executive Oversight Committee		All-Chairs:	
Governance & Accountability Committee:	August 11 th , 2025 ; August 26 th , 2025	House Finance Committee:	

Mover: Anna

Second: Ryan

Result: Carried



2.4 NEW COUNCILLORS

BIRT the following Seating of new Councillors be approved:

Name	Department
Paulina Malcolm	Rehabilitation Science

3 SEATINGS

3.1 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES SEATINGS

All GSS Councillors are required by the bylaws to sit on at least one committee.

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

BIRT the seating of the following external representatives be approved:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
Graduate Council Caucus		Representative	0
AMS Caucus	Bryan Buraga	Representative	1
	Josh Brad	Member	1
Health & Dental		Representative	0

Mover: Katelynn

Seconded: Parker

Result: Carried

3.2 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:

Committee/Caucus	Nominee	Position	Vacancies
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Academic & External		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	0
Code & Policy		Councillor	1
		Ordinary Member	2
Engagement & Elections	Alea	Councillor	5
		Ordinary Member	0
Executive Oversight		Councillor	4
		Ordinary Member	3
Governance & Accountability		Councillor	3
	Pavit Sidhu, Bryan B	Ordinary Member	2
House Finance		Councillor	0
		Ordinary Member	0
Human Resources	Paulina	Councillor	2
	Jingting Elaine Huang	Ordinary Member	1

Mover: Aditi

Second: Parker

Result: Carried

3.3 CHAIR SEATINGS

BIRT the following Committee Chair seatings be approved:

Committee	Nominee
Executive Oversight	

Mover: Ryan

Second: Katelynn

Result: Carried

4 MATTERS FOR DECISION

4.1 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 September 2026:

Name of Affiliate Organization	Representative
Botany Graduate Student Association (BGSA)	Miriam Fenniri
GRSJ (Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice) Grad Student Association	Yara Ahmed
Medical Genetics Graduate Student Association	Nathalie Longakit
French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies Graduate Students Association	Juli Santa
Zoology Graduate Student Association (ZGSA)	Viktorija Juciute
English Graduate Student Caucus	Sofia Osborne
Professional Master of Business Administration (PMBA) Class of 2026 Student Society	Kate Meffen
Campus Vibe	Faith Mbakadi
Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs (MPPGA) Student Association	Rodrigo Rojas

MOVER: VP Students

SECONDER: Anjana

RESULT:Carried

4.2 DRAW THE LINE PROTEST

Responsible: Aditi Adhikari (VP External)

Description: Endorse the Draw the Line protest happening worldwide on September 20, 2025

Proposed Objective: To endorse the protest so that it may be promoted on GSS social media and our newsletter going out tomorrow, and so that our name may go on the list of endorsements on the Draw the Line website

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Draw the Line](#)

BIRT the GSS Council endorses the Draw the Line protest on Sept 20, 2025



MOVER: Aditi **SECONDER:** Emily **RESULT:** Carried

Discussion

Aditi: So, *Draw the Line* is a protest happening all over the world this Saturday. A few UBC students asked us to endorse it, and we did send out a special "Vote by Email," but not enough people participated.

The protest is happening in Vancouver as well. Here's a printout from the website it's a bit long, but it states:

"We refuse to stand by while the government and Canada's richest corporations gut our public services, fuel climate collapse, attack migrants, exploit Indigenous lands, and prop up the genocide in Palestine."

If you want, you can read through the full list of demands quickly. The protest has also been endorsed by, for example, the SFU Student Society and others.

I thought it might be a cool initiative for us to consider endorsing. Many of the GSS values align with the goals of this protest, and they likely align with your values too.

Katelynn: I just want to encourage everyone to support this. One of the organizers, Balraj, is an incredible human being. Even if you don't know him personally, simply showing up to support him is meaningful.

Unfortunately, I can't attend because I'll be picking my mom up from the airport, but I would if I could. I highly recommend people show up, not only because this is a wonderful cause, but also given the many political issues happening globally right now. This protest isn't just happening in Vancouver, it's taking place in many other locations worldwide. I think it's really important that we endorse it.

Showing up allows us to make our voices heard, especially as people in positions of lesser power, to say that we do not accept these injustices. This is particularly significant at such a pivotal moment in the world.

I also want to note that CUPE 2278 has endorsed this protest. As one of the co-chairs of the Student Workers Advocacy Group, a subcommittee between CUPE 2278 and the GSS, I would be remiss not to mention this.

Please consider showing up, it would be amazing to see our community there in support.

4.3 EXECUTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Responsible: Cesar Landin (Financial Officer)

Description: The HFC, in consultation with HRC and CPC, has developed a new policy section (Executive Policy 14: Executive Professional Development Fund). The policy establishes guidelines for Executive Officers to pursue approved professional development opportunities. This fund is distinct from the staff course fee subsidy in the GSS HR Manual and is intended to enhance Executive performance.



Proposed Objective: Council approval is required to adopt the Executive Professional Development Fund as Section 14 of the GSS Executive Policy Manual.

Time: 15 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Proposal](#), [presentation](#)

BIRT Council approve the adoption of Executive Policy 14: Executive Professional Development Fund in the GSS Executive Policy Manual, and renumber current policy 14 to 15.

BIRT the GSS Council approve the addition of Clause 14.4.

MOVER: Cesar **SECONDER:** Amin **RESULT:** Carried

Discussion

Katelynn: This is something we brought up a couple of times earlier this summer. Right now, when there is no EOC Chair, we run into issues, especially when we need timely approval for things like upcoming class funds. For example, if a dean wants guidance on how to talk to a politician and there is no EOC Chair, the necessary funds or approvals cannot be processed. In the case of the EOC, it is also inappropriate for the President to step in as Chair. What is our contingency plan for situations like this?

I don't think we have any questions because you did a really thorough job with this presentation, addressing our concerns both as a Council and creating a solid policy. Everything is planned smoothly thanks to all the hard work you put in. So, thank you.

Cesar: Motion to amend the policy

4.4 NURSING FEES

Group Responsible: Emily Tang (President)

Description: Nursing graduate students received a referendum to collect an annual fee of \$60 towards their new Gateway building for the next 30 years. The referendum passed 65.9% so they have requested that GSS to help with the fee collections.

Proposed Objective: To vote on whether GSS approves the student fee collection for nursing in April 2025

Time: 10 minutes

Supporting Documents: [Referendum Report](#)



BIRT GSS Council will vote on this matter at the next Council meeting, with the Executives providing additional information at that time.

MOVER: Emily **SECONDER:** Anna **RESULT:** Carried

Discussion

A 2020 referendum approved a \$60 annual fee from each nursing student, but there is currently no clear mechanism for collecting it. The proposal is for the GSS to collect the fees and redistribute them to UBC through an MOU with the Board of Governors. Council members asked questions about whether this would function like other student fees, why the AMS is not handling it, and whether there is a benefit to the GSS taking this on. Concerns were raised about the workload this might create for GSS staff and executives. It was noted that the GSS has previously collected fees for other programs, such as the Master of Business Analytics, though the process and responsibilities on the back end were unclear.

4.5 COUNCIL LOCATION

Group Responsible: Emily Tang (President)

Description: Council has been held at the Michael Kingsmill Forum, but AMS catering must be used. The monthly council costs have been \$ 1,300 per month, primarily due to food expenses.

Proposed Objective: To vote on the location switch to GSS Thea's Lounge for GSS council meetings.

Time: 10 minutes

BIRT GSS council decided to vote on this matter at the next council meeting

MOVER: Emily **SECONDER:** Parker **RESULT:** Carried

5 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 MONTHLY BUDGET VS ACTUALS

Responsible: Cesar Landin (Financial Officer)



Time: 10 minutes

Description: The HF Committee reviews monthly profit and loss statements as required by GSS Policy.

Objective: To update Council on the Society's financial position.

Supporting Documents:

5.2 BOG PRESENTATION

Responsible: Emily Tang (President)

Time: 15 minutes

Description: GSS executives prepared a PowerPoint slide for presentation at the Board of Governors meeting Sept 24

Objective: To discuss these goals and receive feedback

Supporting Documents: [Presentation](#)

5.3 DR. HAGERMAN

Responsible: Emily Tang (President)

Time: 10 minutes

Description: At the Oct council meeting Dr. Hagerman will be joining at 5pm to talk to councillors.

Objective: To inform the council of Dr. Hagerman's attendance.

6 MATTERS TO NOTE

Time reserved for questions regarding updates below.

6.1 EXECUTIVES

o President

Executive Retreat - Aug 4-6

All Chairs Meeting Aug 6



FSI Meeting internal – Aug 15
Meeting with AMS on FSI Fund - Aug 15
FSI funds AMS – Aug 21
Council – Aug 21
AMS-GSS work retreat – Aug 22
Law orientation GSS presentation –Aug 25
Meeting with AMS VP Finance about health plan – Aug 26
Full day retreat with VPS Dr. Ainsley Carry office and SUO and AMS – Aug 27
Orientation: GradStart presentation, grad social fair, Koerner's after party Aug. 28
Pancake brunch - Aug 29
CTV news interview on international student caps and budget cuts – Sept 2
Meeting with GM – Sept 4
Exec and Staff meeting – Sept 5
Booth at Liu for public policy students – Sept 5
Lobby Days Meeting with AMS and ABCS – Sept 8
G+PS meeting – Sept 8
House Finance Meeting – Sept 8
Meeting with FSI VPS office staff – Sept 12
Exec Meeting – Sept 12
Celebration of UBC 100 years – Sept 12

o **Financial Officer**

August 27 - Attended VPS retreat
August 28 - Attended grad start fair
August 29 - Biweekly AP approvals, payroll review and credit card payments
August 29 - Attended staff and executive meeting
September 2 - Attended campus life expo
September 5 - Attended executives + staff meeting
September 8 - Attended G+PS meeting
September 8 - House Finance Committee meeting
September 10 - Prepared updated budget for FSI application

o **VP University & Academic Affairs**

Academic Caucus Meeting with AMS VPUAA – Aug 18



Meeting with AMS VPUAA about Graduate Student Funding – Aug 21

AMS–GSS Work Retreat – Aug 22

AcEx Committee Meeting – Aug 25

VP Students Executives & Student Leadership Annual Retreat – Aug 27

Orientation: Grad Social Fair, Koerner's After Party – Aug 28

Pancake Brunch – Aug 29

GCC August Meeting – Aug 29

ADA ADS Meeting – Aug 29

Intervarsity Welcome Event – Sept 4

Meeting with GSA of UAlberta and U of T – Sept 5

Execs plus Staff Meeting – Sept 5

G+PS Leadership and GSS Executive Meeting – Sept 8

Meeting for University Housing with Graduate Students – Sept 10

Academic Integrity Meet and Greet – Sept 11

FSI Meeting with VP Students – Sept 12

Celebration of 100 Years of UBC by UBC Library – Sept 12

VPUAA Team Meeting – Introduction and Greeting – Sept 12

o **VP External Relations**

Executive Retreat - Aug 4-6

All Chairs Meeting - Aug 6

Meeting with AMS VPX- Aug 12

AxEc meeting- Aug 14

Discussion with FSI on Remaining Funds (Execs + Staff) - Aug 15

Meeting with AMS on FSI Fund - Aug 15



Meeting with UBS SVPRO consultant- Aug 18

Council- Aug 21

AMS-GSS Work Retreat - Aug 22

One-on-one with Rina (AFH Coordinator)- Aug 25

House Finance Committee- Aug 26

VP Students Executives & Student Leadership Annual Retreat - Aug 27

Orientation: Grad Social Fair, Koerner's After Party - Aug 28

Pancake Brunch - Aug 29

Imagine day boothing- Sept 2

Interview with CBC – Sept 4

Exec and staff meeting: Sept 5

Meeting with G+PS: Sept 8

o **VP Students**

AO Event approvals and reimbursements – Ongoing

Drafted and sent out AO Sept newsletter

Update AO list

AMS+GSS Retreat: Aug. 22

Law Orientation presentation: Aug 25th

GradStart day: Aug. 28th

Pancake Brunch and campus tours: Sept 29th

Imagine Day Booth: Sept 2nd

Career Coaching Program meeting: Sept. 3rd

Meeting UBC Rec: Sept. 4th

MPPGA orientation GSS booth: Sept 5th

Centre of Accessibility X GSS session: Sept 9th



G+PS Meeting: Sept 8

Events team meeting: Sept 11

Meeting with InterVarsity: Sept. 11

Meeting with Vivian (AO related): Sept 5th

Executive meeting: Sept 12th

Meeting with MPPGA: Sept. 15th

6.2 COMMITTEES

o Academic & External Committee

AcEx has taken the first half of September off to allow members to get their new fall schedules sorted. Minutes that were missed being submitted for the last council have been submitted for this council.

o Code & Policy Committee

(None submitted)

o Engagement & Elections Committee

(None submitted)

o Executive Oversight Committee

(None submitted)

o Governance & Accountability Committee

We are evaluating the potential of OneDrive for document storage and exploring how it can be used most effectively. This includes examining its advantages and disadvantages, as well as approaches for providing effective user training.

o House Finance Committee

(None submitted)



o Human Resources

- WL W25 Hiring process is complete.
- The HRC completed reviewing the Policy Draft for the Executive Professional Development Fund and forwarded its recommendations to the Council.

o AMS Caucus

New members interested to join the council.

o Graduate Council Caucus

1. Minimum funding package for master's and PhD students
2. VPUAA meetings and related discussions (University VP students retreat and AMS meetings)

7 NOTICES

7.1 NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, October 16th at 5:30 pm

Location: TBD

7.2 NOTICE OF UNSEATING

Samia Syeoti Ramim to be unseated as AMS Caucus Representative
Connor Long to be unseated as EOC Chair
Ali Khaleji to be unseated as CPC Councillor
Ali Khaleji to be unseated as Bioinformatics Departmental Representative

8 ADJOURNMENT

BIRT there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Mover: Parker

Seconded: Katelynn

Result: Carried