



SUBJECT	Graduate Student Society Financial Aid Fee
SUBMITTED TO	Finance Committee
MEETING DATE	April 7, 2021
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	Action requested - Final approval IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Finance Committee, in accordance with authority delegated by the Board of Governors and as requested by the UBC Graduate Student Society, approves collection of a \$2 annual fee ("GSS Graduate Student Financial Aid") from all Graduate Student Society members, effective for the 2021-2022 academic year and yearly indexed by the Consumer Price Index.
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Ainsley Carry, Vice-President Students
SUPPORTED BY	Peter Smailes, Vice-President Finance & Operations Samantha Reid, Executive Director Office of the Vice-President Students

PRIOR SUBMISSIONS

The subject matter of this submission has not previously been considered by the Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UBC Graduate Student Society (GSS) requests that a new fee of \$2 be collected starting September 2021 from all members of the GSS in accordance with University timelines for fee implementation. The fee would be named "GSS Graduate Student Financial Aid" and would be adjusted yearly indexed by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The purpose of the fee is to provide assistance to graduate students who face unexpected financial hardship. This funding would be collected annually and reserved for funding Graduate Student Financial Aid.

APPENDICES

1. GSS Letter
2. GSS Referendum results



Subject: GSS Graduate Student Financial Aid Fee

Date: Marth 9th, 2021

This submission is made on behalf of the Graduate Student Society (GSS) of UBC Vancouver to request the University to start collection of a \$2 annual fee named "GSS Graduate Student Financial Aid" from all GSS members, yearly indexed by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in accordance with the results of the results of the recent referendum.

Background

The GSS run a referendum in accordance with its bylaws which included the following motion:

"WHEREAS the GSS began administering a Graduate Student Financial Aid (GSFA) in 2019, and

WHEREAS the GSFA's purpose is to provide assistance to graduate students who face unexpected financial hardship, as described in Policy 15, and

WHEREAS currently, funding for the GSFA is allocated from the GSS operational budget, under the recommendation of the Vice President University and Academic Affairs (VP UAA), subject to review and approval by the House Finance Committee (HF) and the GSS Council, and

WHEREAS this funding structure represents a severe risk to the continuity of the fund.

BIRT a direct annual fee of \$2.00 be created for members of the GSS effective immediately, to be collected and reserved for funding the Graduate Student Financial Aid. The fee shall be adjusted annually according to CPI starting from the year after the implementation of the fee."

The motion carried with 563 votes in favour and 117 votes against (see enclosed "Simply Voting" results). Our bylaws established a minimum participation of 600 votes for quorum, which was reached in this case, making it a quorate vote.

If you wish to verify our referendum rules, they are available in our bylaws at: <https://gss.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/GSSBylawsR-20190321-AGM.pdf>

Request

The GSS requests that:

- A new fee of \$2 be collected starting September of 2021 from all members of the Society, in accordance with University timelines for fee implementation.
- That the fee be adjusted by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year.



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- That in each adjustment, the fee be rounded up to the closest \$0.01 in accordance with common accounting rounding practices.
 - That the University remands the collected fee to the Society in similar manner as its membership fees.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you require any further documentation or clarification.

Yours Sincerely,

Kimani Karangu

President

president@gss.ubc.ca



**GRADUATE
STUDENT SOCIETY**
UBC VANCOUVER

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Enclosed:

- Voting results "Simply Voting Election Manager.pdf"



Results

Turnout: 737 (6.9%) of 10685 electors voted in this ballot.

Bylaw Amendment: Executive Vacancies, Including Absences

No	24 (3.7%)
Yes	632 (96.3%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	656 (89.0%)
Abstain	81 (11.0%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Councillor Training Procedures

No	15 (2.3%)
Yes	646 (97.7%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	661 (89.7%)
Abstain	76 (10.3%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Bylaw 3.10 and Others Regarding Rights of Members

No	22 (3.3%)
Yes	650 (96.7%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	672 (91.2%)
Abstain	65 (8.8%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Strategic Framework

No	13 (2.0%)
Yes	639 (98.0%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	652 (88.5%)
Abstain	85 (11.5%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Executives on the Executive Oversight Committee

No	20 (3.1%)
Yes	634 (96.9%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	654 (88.7%)
Abstain	83 (11.3%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Written Resolutions of Council

No	26 (4.3%)
Yes	576 (95.7%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	602 (81.7%)
Abstain	135 (18.3%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Honorary Membership

No	37 (5.5%)
Yes	631 (94.5%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	668 (90.6%)
Abstain	69 (9.4%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Amending Policy Manual and Bylaws

No	82 (13.4%)
Yes	528 (86.6%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	610 (82.8%)
Abstain	127 (17.2%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: GSFA Fee Referendum

No	117 (17.2%)
Yes	563 (82.8%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	680 (92.3%)
Abstain	57 (7.7%)
Total	737

Bylaw Amendment: Executive Elections

No	23 (3.9%)
Yes	571 (96.1%)

SUMMARY

Answered Questions	594 (80.6%)
Abstain	143 (19.4%)
Total	737

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