

2024-2025 Finance Committee Semi-Annual Report

October 10th, 2025 – AGM

2024-2025 Membership (Checks and Balances Committee members)

Chair: **Maggie Lawton** (Director of Finance)

- Kyla Turner (Executive Director), non-voting
- Luke Montgomery (GRC)
- Yukio Jamieson Burns (GRC)
- Jeremy Perkins (GRC)
- Dhvani Sura (GRC)
- Sarah Roberts (GRC)
- Gillian Leach (GRC)
- Jenna Mehlmann (GRC)
- Liam Mihalynuk (GRC)
- Mary Ann Sing (GRC)

Duties of the Committee

The general purpose of the Finance Committee is to oversee the overall financial administration of the Graduate Student's Society (GSS). In detail, the committee serves to develop the annual budget for all the GSS operations, oversee the maintenance of the capital budget and make recommendations to the Executive Board on capital expenditures. Additionally, the Finance Committee shall support and advise on transparency of the financial administration of the GSS.

Work Completed

New Informal Committee:

For context, during the 2023-2023 and 2023-2024 years, the Finance Committee struggled to meet regularly and perform the duties of the Finance Committee. During the 2024-2025 academic year (the GRC year), the Board decided to combine the Appeals, Finance and SR(C) committees into one informal Checks and Balances Committee. This helped promote the strong contributions from Appeals and SRC, into the Finance Committee, as well as lowering the overall workload from multiple individuals sitting on these committees. This also allowed the other committees, like Events and Advocacy and Campaigns to build a stronger membership base, in accordance with our overall goals listed in the Annual Plan. Overall, we found relatively good success in this implementation, and the 2025-2026 GRC will continue this practice.

Planning of 2026 Fee Referendum:

During the second half of its term, the Finance Committee began the process of planning and preparing for a referendum in 2026 to readjust membership fees to better match member interest and use. This project was initiated due to a request to GRC to improve support for our Constituency

Groups, as well as an internal need to adjust or remove unusable fees. The committee selected a list of groups to contact and request financial and user information. These included the Consistency Groups (Society for Students with a Disability (SSD), Students of Colour Collective (SOCC), Native Students Union (NSU), Gender Empowerment Centre (GEM) and Pride), and World University Services Canada (WUSC). The committee also discussed removing unusable fees such as the Student Advocate fund (the UVSS counterpart of which failed at referenda, thus being unable to fund the position it had been intended to fund) as well as University 101 (a program which ended in August 2025).