Reed welcomed the new Graduate Representative Council (GRC) and called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

1. Adoption of the Agenda
Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 01 M/S Baker/Chui
The agenda for 2007-09-25 GRC is approved as presented.
CARRIED

2. Minutes
Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 02 M/S Howard/Avis
The minutes for 2007-02-27 and 2007-04-17 Grad Rep Council meetings are approved omnibus.
CARRIED
3. Introduction from the Chair, Review of Meeting Procedure
Reed introduced the GSS Executive members present.

Reed gave a brief overview of the role of the Graduate Representative Council and referred to the orientation packages provided.

Reed gave a brief explanation of meeting procedure through Roberts Rules of Order.

Chappel was directed to circulate a Roberts Rules introduction sheet via email to grad reps.

4. Report from the Executive
Kolthammer referred to written reports. He noted the CFS referendum campaign, renovations planning for the grad centre, development of financial policy, IQ bistro and graduate student space campaigns. He noted Blanding’s report was also being circulated.

Blanding apologized for providing his report late.

Reed explained that individual executive reports are titled “accountability reports” to remind the GRC that the purpose in passing the reports is to approve the work done by the Executive.

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 03 M/S Kolthammer/Cartwright
The 2007-09-26 Report of the GSS Executive and Executive Accountability Reports are approved as presented.

Dawson asked whether the cost of the executive retreat was paid by the Society.

Chappel said that yes, each year the executive spent one weekend at the beginning of their term planning for the year ahead, being oriented to their role and the organization, and reviewing the previous year. She noted the executive books the Simpson Property for $25 per night and then pays for food which the executive cooks and the cost of transportation to the retreat.

CARRIED

5. Main Business
   a. Endorsement of Executive motion to AGM to create line of credit
      Reed noted that a line of credit could not be entered into without approval of the membership at the AGM. He asked the GRC to consider endorsing a motion coming from the Executive to create a line of credit. Reed asked Chappel to give some background information.

      Chappel referred to written reports and explained the reasons behind suggesting a line of credit. Primary goals are to permit long term investment of major funds, and earn interest revenue, while still maintaining the ability to cover costs when income of membership revenue is received only in late October and at the end of March.

      Chappel noted that interest revenue is a goal partly because of the interest the society has in expanding the building or building a new building.

      Edmunds asked whether interest revenue would outweigh interest payments made due to the line of credit.
Chappel explained that it would be important to avoid long term use of the line of credit, but that interest is calculated daily, meaning charges could be kept to a minimum with judicious management. She noted that there is risk involved in any loan, and that the line of credit would not be undertaken without approval of the members.

Titterness asked about the rate of return on the investments.

Chappel reported that return on longer term investment was around 5% per annum while shorter term investments were around 2 or 3, but it also depended on the size of the investment.

Chui asked whether investment in varying sums was another possible option.

Chappel said that it was an option and that currently there was a small term deposit of around $20,000 which renewed monthly.

Chui asked whether long term investment would tie the hands of the society should the GSS wish to build before 5 years was up.

Chappel said that it depended on the type of building the members chose to do. If we were to build a new building it could be a long process, and more expensive. An expansion might happen more quickly but would be less costly. In either case a mortgage might be necessary, and the amount of the mortgage would depend on the line of credit, investments, and cost and timeline of the project.

Chappel was directed to provide information on options for investment and mortgages to follow up from Chui’s questions.

**Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 04**  
M/S Budd/So  
BIRT the GSS Graduate Representative Council endorses the following motion to be approved by the membership at the October 2007 Annual General Meeting:  
“BIRT the GSS executive is authorized to open a line of credit at the Greater Victoria Credit Union for an amount not exceeding $150,000.”  
CARRIED

**Motion to recess** the meeting for 10 minutes M/S Baker/Blanding  
CARRIED

b. **Election of a Director of Finance**  
Reed opened nominations for the Director of Finance.

Reed noted the term would be October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Reed reported three nominations had been received in advance: Brinda Shah, Elizabeth Collins and Lorraine Courneya. Reed asked if any further nominations were forthcoming from the floor.

Zhivko Nedev was nominated from the floor.
Reed invited each candidate to introduce themselves to the room and explain their interest in the position.

Collins introduced herself as an MA student in Sociology, and referred to her written submission. She noted her past experience with the GRC including organizing social activities through Services. She said she is interested in helping students and enjoys working with the GSS. She noted she had a background in statistical analysis.

Courneya introduced herself as a student in Physics. She said she wanted to become more involved with student organizing and said she is a “number cruncher” as her research is in particle physics. She noted she had experience working closely with directors of finance in various cities in her past work and that her expertise includes an ability to look for problems and find things that are out of place.

Shah introduced herself as a new student in Biochemistry and Microbiology. She notes she has a background in banking, investment, sales and mutual funds management. She said she works at the Vancouver Island Technology Park and is interested in finding ways to become more involved with other students on campus.

Nedev introduced himself as a student in Mathematics. He said he has completed his thesis and as he is in the final stages of his degree has time to get involved. He said he knows about investment and a lot about “digits”. He noted he wants to help develop a vision for students through the upcoming expansion enrolment.

Reed thanked the candidates and asked candidates and non voting members to leave the room during the vote.

[Candidates and guests left the room].

Reed explained that the GRC would need to choose whether to vote by show of hands or ballot. He asked for a motion for one of the methods.

**Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 05**

M/S Howard/Anderson  
The GRC will vote for the new Director of Finance by show of hands unless there is opposition.

Reed asked if there is opposition to voting by show of hands.

There was opposition.

Reed noted that since even if the motion passed it would necessarily have no affect as it only took affect with no opposition.

**FAILED**

**Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 06**

M/S Sistili/Jing Chan  
The GRC will vote for the new Director of Finance by ballot.

It was suggested a show of hands is quicker.

Sistili pointed out the ballot counters could leave the meeting to count, and the meeting could proceed.
So suggested debating the method would take longer than counting the votes.

Avis and Riecken volunteered to count the ballots.

CARRIED

The members voted and ballots were collected.

c. Election of members to the Health and Dental Appeals Committee (HDAC)
   The chair opened nominations for two student representatives to the HDAC

   Chappel reported that Suzanne Slater, Nursing grad rep had sent in her nomination by email.

   Jay Budd nominated himself.

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 07 M/S Kolthammer/Avis
Suzanne Slater and Jay Budd are elected to the Health and Dental Appeals Committee.
CARRIED

d. Election Report
   Riecken and Avis returned and reported the Elizabeth Collins had received the majority votes.

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 08 M/S Kolthammer/Avis
Beth Collins is elected as the Director of Finance effective October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.
CARRIED

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 09 M/S Baker/Avis
Ballots for the election of the Director of Finance are destroyed.
CARRIED

Chappel was directed to destroy the ballots.

[Edmunds left at 6:15 pm]

6. Departmental Reports
   a. Roundtable
      Physics: Baker reported there was a successful orientation event and BBQ.
      Dispute Resolution: Cartwright reports that there are 9 new graduate students. There are issues regarding office space, supervisors and no available electives.
      Economics: So reported that Economics are off on their own in the BEC building, come say hi!
      School of Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education: Riecken reports there are 10 new students and 90 altogether. She noted the department has changed its name from Physical Education to the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education. There has been a welcome lunch. Last spring there was a TA symposium which showcased student research. Issues in the department include funding for TA union positions, and lack of courses.
      Sociology: Roddick reports there are 18 new MA students, double the cohort last year. Not everyone has office space. There was an informal camping orientation.
Philosophy: Shiota reports that there are 13 graduate students, and 6 new MA students (up 2 from last year’s cohort) and including one visiting student under the new partnership program between UVic and China. All students are sharing the same office. There is a mandatory pro seminar and all other courses are cross listed with undergraduate courses. The external review results are in and advised creating a PhD program in Philosophy, but the graduate students strongly disagree since there are not grad courses or resources. CUPE 4163: Flower reported that the CUPE 4163 SAGM is next month and encouraged everyone to attend. She noted that the stewards meetings are on Thursday.

Earth & Ocean Science: Avis reports that there are 16 new students this year, with 3 more starting in January. The big issue in the department is the move to the science building summer 2008.

Linguistics: Ham reports that there are 10 new students, 9 MA and 1 PhD, this year, with a total of 32 grad students in the department. There is a new applied linguistics program. Space and funding are big issues, and supervision is an issue as well. Often when issues come up with supervisors, as with any department students don’t wish to raise complaints because of their relationship with the supervisor being important. Ham reports another issue in the department is funding. There are TA, RA and fellowships but the number of students assisted is limited. If students take longer than 2 years for an MA or 4 for a PhD, their funding is cut off, which is designed to ensure students are “motivated” to complete.

Germanic & Slavic Studies: Weimer-Stuckmann reports the department is tiny, cozy and nice and encouraged everyone to visit.

Psychology: Hager reports that the department has 12 new MA students, which is a large intake. All the funding is for first year students, and then dries up. The department is hiring two new faculty.

Math & Statistics: Howard reports there are 50 students in Math, and the department is preparing for a move to the new building.

Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies: Firo reports there are 11 new students and a new educational technology lab which is great. She notes there is a first year course on learning strategy.

Hispanic & Italian Studies: Shewey reports the department has one new student, and no offices, even for TAs, however the department is cautiously hopeful. There is a department colloquia upcoming and the schedule can be viewed at: http://web.uvic.ca/hispanital/colloquium/colloquium.htm

History: Dawson reports that there are over 70 graduate students in the department and that his main interest in attending GRC is to raise concerns regarding the GSS, specifically bookings in IQ bistro and for conferences being difficult. Dawson said he hoped to smooth over this problem. There are seminars in the department every week.

Political Science: Pullman reported there are 15 new MA students and 1 new PhD. There was a great orientation, including a “free” beer at IQ! There have been marginal program changes and there is a new building for the department. Research symposium is held each Thursday evening, and the EU ambassador to the European Commission is visiting.

Law: Jing reports there are 11 new students, from all over the world. He said Law is in the Fraser building and invites everyone to come drink tea!

Pacific & Asian Studies: Yulin Zhou reports the department has 4 new MA students. There was a family potluck with faculty. The department has limited grad office space with nine students sharing a small room with 3 desks and 2 computers.

History in Art: Anderson reported that each student has a little desk. There are 8-9 new students and 1 new PhD. There was a welcome lunch.

Child & Youth Care: Zadorozniak reports there are 52 MA students, 20 are new, up from 15. There are also 6 more starting in January, which is new. There were 5 PhD students but no interest. There is now an Undergraduate program which is new, an MA and a PhD. Only two students are in office space. The students are also concerned about a $350
semester fee which no one seems able to explain. Another issue is that because the
students are not assigned supervisors they cannot apply for grants.
[Chui and Wood left at 6:25 pm]

Greek & Roman Studies: Budd reports there are 6 MA students, of whom 3 are new and
3 are “old hands”. There is 1 office with 4 desks for everyone. Thus 2 work at home, but
figuring out tax deductions for a home office is confusing! There are regular visiting
speakers and sometimes they are interesting. The department website has listings at:
http://web.uvic.ca/grs/

Geography: Reed read from Wood’s report the department has mostly adequate space—
shared offices with your own desk. Some still have none. There is a TA office. A
suggestion was raised in the department to create a supervisor evaluation system that is
anonymous and would hopefully help identify problems.

Chemistry: Chappel read from Chui’s report there are 6 new students, which is much
lower than the usual 20.

Reed thanked the grad reps for their reports. He noted there is 30 minutes left.

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 10 M/S Blanding/Dawson
Ammend the agenda to strike break out sessions from the agenda.

Blanding suggested remaining in the whole group and discussing each topic in turn would save
time.

CARRIED

b. Identify common issues
Reed noted common issues: office space, supervisory relationships, not having a
supervisor, the inability to apply for funding as a result or having no supervisor, funding
being eliminated after a time limit, and expansion of departments without there being
adequate resources.

7. Campaign issues
a. Office Space
Sistili reported there had been a demonstration to raise this issue with tents erected as
“grad office space” at the president’s day barbeque. She noted there were lots of visitors.
She noted a question for CUPE 4163 is what the minimum requirement for TA offices is,
and if there is a standard in terms of size, privacy.

Collins suggested the grad reps could return information on department facilities to the
GSS in the questionnaire provided.

Blanding reports the Executive attended a meeting with Dean Devor regarding enrolment
increases after funding increases in BC.

Kolthammer suggested the GRC should determine what a victory looks like—i.e. if it is a
% of space allocated to graduate students’ offices.

Collins suggested the mean average of the departments being the standard.

Budd suggested cubic volume, perhaps comparison with veal pens.
Riecken suggested supervisors should be ensuring their students have space.

Shewey reported her department chair has been lobbying, but he office space is a campus wide issue where main decisions are made higher up.

Kolthammer said departments can only allocate the space they have.

**Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 11 M/S Kotlhammer/Anderson**
Office space campaign planning is tabled until receipt of grad rep “homework” with departmental data on office space.
CARRIED

b. Supervisory Relationship
Reed reports that at the Graduate Executive Committee (GEC) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), there is a review of the supervisory relationship document being conducted. They are looking at creating a policy, which is more enforceable than a “document” and also examining options for how students are accepted and ensuring supervisors that match are available.
If the university chooses to assign supervisors based on a students’ application, a concern is that should students switch their topic area when they are mid way through their degree, it would become the students’ obligation to find a new supervisor.
Other options were reducing the size of supervisory committees, but this was rejected. The GEC is also looking at a student on mentorship, based on a similar study elsewhere. The Learning and Teaching Centre is involved in this, as well as EPLS. There will be a call for students to sit on this committee.

Blanding reports he is organizing a workshop on supervisory relationship document with Gweneth Doane from FGS. Blanding suggested the Student Affairs Committee, which he chairs, could take on supervisory relationship as a key issue this year.

Ham suggested the supervisors should have a workshop on the document.

Cartwright noted that departments where there are not supervisors have a different sort of issue—there is no definition of the role of interim supervisors, which is what Dispute Resolution students all have. Students in DR have been told to look at other universities for electives and supervisors.

Jing reports in Law the main problem is when supervisors are always travelling, so contact is sometimes only available through email.

Zhivho asked how faculty evaluated supervisors. Perhaps if the supervisors have too few or two many students there could be an impact on their salary? He notes that at U of T supervisors get funds from NSERC which is then pooled and allocated along with the students, so there is encouragement to supervise. Both students and supervisors compete.

Collins supported tabling the idea to the Student Affairs Committee.

Reed noted he hoped to create an ad-hoc committee to shadow the UVIC committee, which could also include some UVIC admin people.
Blanding notes he is open to this idea, but points out his committee already has a mandate to meet regularly.

Jing suggests that the GSS create an event for first year students to meet with more experienced graduate students.

Chappel offered to take on this event.

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 12  
M/S Blanding/Rudd
Chappel is directed to organize a “new comers” breakfast event.  
CARRIED

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 13  
M/S Kolthammer/Avis
Supervisory Relationship issues are referred to the Student Affairs Committee with the recommendation the committee create an Ad-hoc committee on Supervisory Relationships.  
CARRIED

c. Social Events / Clubs

Motion 2007-09-25 GRC: 14  
M/S So/Kolthammer
Social event organizing is tabled to the Services Committee  
CARRIED

Reed tabled the remaining agenda except announcements and adjournment to the next meeting.

8. Announcements
Reed welcomed Kelly Sakaki and Dan Kerley from RE/MIX and invited them to make an announcement.

Kelly reports that RE/MIX is an inter-departmental social that drew 150 students last year. He circulated posters and asked each grad rep to post them in their department. He reported there will be dancing, door prizes, and activities to help people meet each other. Entry is 5$ but includes your first drink ticket. He asked grad reps to encourage people to attend, and also to volunteer, especially on the day.

RE/MIX will be November 23 at 6pm in Vertigo in the SUB.

9. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

SC/sc
2007-09-25 GRC Minutes

Approved, Chair                  Approved, Executive Director