University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society

Grad Rep Council meeting – AGENDA

Date: 2008-01-22

Present:
Xander Baker, Physics
Eric Anders, History in Art
Kai Riecken, Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education
Chris Avis, School of Earth and Ocean Science
Lisa Endersby, Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies
Lisa Wood, Geography
Aquila Flower, CUPE 4163
Devon Drury, History
Takuto Shiota, Philosophy
Jing Qian, Law
Kathleen Perkin, Anthropology

Alix Little, Anthropology
Ashley Cummings, Music
Leah Howard, Math and Statistics
Jon Chui, Chemistry
Bernie Edmunds, Business Administration
Warren Shenkenfelder: Computer Science
Patrick Reed, Chair
Joe Kolthammer, Director of Communications
Suzanne Slater, Director of Student Affairs
Beth Collins, Director of Finance
Stacy Chappel, Executive Director (ex officio, non voting)

Regrets:
Alison Cake
Jennifer Zadorozniak
Meghann Fiorr
Alanna Hager
Dominique Guay
Vanessa Cartwright
Manda Roddick
Janice Shewey

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm with Reed in the chair

Reed noted quorum was not present so the meeting would be informational without voting.

1. Adoption of the Agenda
   No changes made to the agenda.

2. Executive Reports
   Executive Reports approval tabled to next meeting.

3. Minutes
   Minutes tabled to next meeting

4. Business arising from the minutes
   None.

5. Departmental Reports
   Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies: Endersby reports the Association of Graduate Education Students (AGES) has 3-4 workshops coming up about getting published, attending conferences. Students are also holding a networking fair, raising funds to attend CSSE conference
in Vancouver. Shelley Ross, outgoing chair of AGES, is transferring work to Lisa. Lisa is also staff at the Student Transition Centre (STC). She notes the STC – GSS Grad Student social was great, lots of fun! STC is holding more events as well, and is seeking help organizing a writing retreat on the 18th of Feb, during reading week. One workshops at the retreat is about getting published, and are seeking panel members. Lisa noted she could be reached at lmenders@uvic.ca about the events.

**Anthropology:** Little reports there are colloquia on Fridays. The department may have hired a dept chair (finally!)

**Nursing:** Slater noted that as the new Director of Student Affairs she is no longer the rep for Nursing, but is seeking a replacement. Large number of students in Nursing are distance students online, and the GSS has promised to provide if necessary to involve a distance student as the rep.

**Physics:** Baker reports the semester has been tumultuous. New Masters courses have been modified owed to a staffing shortage—standard course set dropped by one course and first year students were asked to pick up a high level undergrad course instead. Baker reports the department is hiring for astronomy. Colloquia are held every Wednesday at 3:30.

**History in Art:** Anderson reports there is no major change. This Friday night and Sat all day there is a symposium, mostly grad students giving papers, in art history bldg. Anderson is presenting!

**Math and Statistics:** Howard reported there is a search for a new chair of department. Over reading break they will be moving to the new building, and students are excited about the move.

**Law:** Qian reports there are interviews ongoing for new Law dean and there are lots of candidates. A colloquium is held every Friday, this week it is Debra on “volunteer slavery” in Fraser 152 2:30 Friday. Interested people are advised to arrive early!

**Philosophy:** Shiota reports there is a talk on January 23 by Dr Eike Kluge, Internationally renowned Ethics Expert Presents: *The Ethics of Reproduction: From Sex Selection to Cloning* Jan 23rd HHB 110 6-8pm. There will be pizza by donation (All Proceeds go to the Medical Brigades)

**Chemistry:** Chui reports the new chair and hat is passed on. (Chui explained the new chair gets sombrero ceremonially passed on from previous chair). There is a plan to start mini workshops for undergrads and grads about different information systems for research—the project is in the early planning stage.

**History:** Drury reports the chair search committee reconfirmed previous chair. This weekend is the annual Qualicum Conference, which will be well attended Graduate Students’ across BC.

**Earth and Ocean Sciences:** Avis reports the department is moving, doing inventory of equipment. He noted they are looking to hire undergrad for summer through Facilities Mgt to move equipment. If someone has a student looking for summer work who would be familiar with the equipment he suggests telling them to get in touch with him.

**Music:** Cummings reported socials and events are being planned. There is a concert Friday 8pm in MacLaurin featuring students and faculty.

**Exercise Science:** Aiken reported there is research lecture series on wellness and health and she is seeking help in promoting them. Topic areas are nutrition, health, and lifestyle, and are interesting to various departments. The department secured funding for an additional TA Position
so there are 5 new positions for PE 142. Faculty discussing fixing up grad resource room which would be excellent as it is in bad shape. Everyone is invited to submit presentations to the upcoming symposium on health and wellness. It would be of particular interest to sociology, biology, nursing, etc to present research. Morning will be sponsored by the Canadian obesity network. Afternoon will be a grad student showcase. It will be held April 18.

CUPE 4163: Flower reported the big news is CUPE decided how to spend surplus money. They allocated scholarship and decided they would be for “excellence in service”. Nominations can be submitted by anyone, two awards per semester, including summer semester. The awards will use interest on the fund so the fund won’t deplete. The selection committee is open to anyone in Component 1. CUPE 4163 also worked with the GSS to draft a joint petition on office space, which is now ready for circulation. Hooray for cooperating!

Geography: Wood reported the department put together an outdoor soccer team. There is a weekly colloquium with food. Currently the department still in process of finding new chair and they are hiring new faculty member. 4 nominees competing right now for the position on faculty.

Computer Science: Shenkenfelder reported Computer Science is also looking for a new chair, and there are 3 candidates. Workshop course for seniors completed its January session and it went really well.

Business: Edmonds reports the MBA program signed a memorandum of understanding with BC government today that the BC government will offer the MBA faculty 6-10 coop placements every year. It seems they are looking to create co-op positions with other departments as well. Edmonds noted Business has also put together a soccer team and he told wood they would “see them on the pitch”.

Child and Youth Care (submitted by email): Zadorozniak reported the CYC gathering is occuring Feb. 8th @ 7pm at a home of one of our students in Oak Bay. So far there are 22 RSVPs from students and faculty, so the event is shaping up quite nicely! But over 60 students/faculty were invited. Also, 4 more of our first year cohort have found supervisors.

Reed thanked everyone for their reports.

6. Main Business
   a. Building Expansion update
      Reed reports plans are at costing. Expanding to include a lounge, and doubling the size of the kitchen. That will allow faster food service, more diverse menu. It will also improve storage space, reducing clutter. Bar improvements will enable using the small side of the IQ for bookings. The renovations will keep the look of the building.

      Reed reports the plans are also to create a grad student lounge at the end of the meeting room hallway. This will be for hanging out, meeting to study.

      Draft floor plans were circulated

      Endersby asked if this space will be bookable.

      Reed reported the plan is to have a non-bookable space that is open at all times for students to hang out. The GSS is looking into extended hours for the space but certainly it will be open when the building is open.
b. **Fellowships Campaign**  
Collins reports she received an email from Dean Devor in response to her letter about the fellowship administration problems. She noted it seemed like a form letter from the Dean stating they are waiting on the computer, they think it is important, and restating the changes already made. She asked if others had received one.

No one else had received a letter, but Collins noted she had received the email immediately before the meeting.

Chappel reports the exec has discussed making a submission to the Board of Governors and asked if there was general support for the idea.

Perkin reported she has collected additional letters. Others noted they had more letters as well.

Shiota asked them to bring letters to GSS and he will pick them up.

c. **Office Space**  
Reed reports joint petition on office space is complete.

Reed suggested making a count of grad office space before and after the department moves. Requests changes are reported to grad council.

Qian asked if there is room for grad students in Mearns learning centre.

Reed reported we have been told 3rd floor o Mearns is unfinished and has been mooted as a grad student office space. UVic is seeking donor, and donor may determine purpose differently. Reed suggested anyone with rich friends seek donations to make grad office spaces on 3rd floor Mearns. Reed noted a little known fact there are sabbatical offices on the Library’s 3rd floor now.

Joe circulated petition.

Members were asked to circulate in their departments and return to CUPE 4163 or the GSS office.

d. **Clubs Update (Sistili)**  
Sistili reported she attended UVSS clubs council today. Reported in past there was a rule that clubs require 2/3 undergrads as members to receive clubs funding, and now it is simply 2/3 UVic students.

Clubs council website includes information on ratifying clubs. The change is that now you can’t exclude undergrads but you don’t require undergrads.

Qian asked if grad students could apply to be a GSS club instead.

Sistili explained all clubs are administered through the joint clubs council, which graduate students fund with their student fees

e. **Events (Sistili)**  
Sistili reported she is seeking volunteers for upcoming events
Casino night
Feb 5 at 6:30, including poker, roulette, black jack and Big 2. Entrance will be by
donation for creation of a grad student emergency fund. Everyone will be given fake
money to gamble with and they can use the funds to participate in a prize auction at the
end of the night.

Sisitili is seeking volunteer dealers.

Chocolate tour
Volunteers for march chocolate tea

Chinese new year Dim Sum
Feb 10, dim sum followed by watching the new years parad. Sistili reported she booked
a table for 20 at Don Mee. The meal will cost about 12$ per person (approximately).
Students need to book in advance by emailing gsscomm@uvic.ca to obtain a seat. First
come first served!

Feb 26 Grad Secretaries tea
Sistili reports she will invite grad reps.

f. CFS Referendum
Update on Referendum Oversight Committee
Chappel reported the referendum process is governed by the Canadian Federation of
Students bylaws, which includes the formation of a bi-partisan Referendum Oversight
Committee (ROC) to set the rules and operation of the referendum.

Chappel reported Tak Shiota, Philosophy grad rep, and Nicole O'Byrne a former Law
grad rep and current GSS member, had been elected as the GSS representatives to the
ROC.

Chappel noted that the GSS was signing a memorandum of understanding with the
GSS representatives to the ROC that they are arms length from the GSS and the GSS
will not be directing them or their actions on the ROC. Chappel explained the executive
had decided to do this as the executive had endorsed the petition to leave the CFS and
as such needed to ensure the GSS representatives to the ROC are free to represent all
GSS members no matter what their view on the referendum. She noted the GSS will
make all correspondence with the ROC public for this reason.

Date of voting is March 18-19-20, but Chappel noted information on campaigning,
means of voting and other aspects of the referendum will be determined by the ROC.

Endersby asked whether there will be campaign funds.

Chappel said this would be determined by the ROC, but typically campaigning is not
that expensive for GSS referenda and the GSS is not expecting to spend a large sum.

Campaigning for YES or NO sides
Grad Reps were encouraged to let members know about the referendum, get involved
in campaigning for either side, and to help make sure members in their departments
knew how to get involved on either side of the campaign.
Chappel noted the GSS office (room 102 Grad Centre) was to be kept campaign free and members of all perspectives could be referred there to obtain access to information on the referendum process and the ROC.

g. **GSS Executive Board Elections**
Reed encouraged people to put their name forward for executive positions. He noted nominations will be opening in February, with ratification taking place in March.

Collins encouraged interested members to contact executive members holding the portfolio that interested them most to discuss the position.

h. **Connecting with distance students**
Slater reported nursing students are often distance students. She suggested members would find it helpful to be able to attend meetings through teleconferencing or computer conferencing.

She noted the GSS hasn't yet cost options.

Reed noted Public Admin grad distance students have a rep on their council to work with them and keep them up to date.

Chappel asked for feedback on technology, assistance from grad reps in relevant departments in getting information from distance students on how they would like to be involved.

Reed noted there are new certificate programs being established where all students will be distance students and the GSS will be working to develop a means to represent them.

7. **Other Business**

**Ombudsperson:**
Slater reported the Ombudsperson is working on supervisor relationships.

Grad reps could assist by checking with their departments whether there have been upgraded policy since 2005. The new policy would expressly describe what committee members duties are, supervisor and students roles, and the appeal process. The document would be specific to the department.

Slater asked that a copy of any such document be sent to her at the GSS, and she will copy them to the Ombudsperson as well as file them at the GSS.

8. **Notices of Motion**
None.

9. **Announcements**

The Unacknowledged Source has handful but seeking more production is next week. Anyone interested in next year best to jump in now and watch production.

**CUPE 4163** is looking for newsletter content.

**STC Whips!** Writing event David Strong – 6 writers, concurrant with Dalhousie, people will be writing and process projected behind them on the screen is on Saturday.