Present:
Adrienne Canning, Philosophy
Melissa Ray, Child & Youth Care
Emma Sharkey, Dispute Resolution
Annie Bourbonnais, Earth & Ocean Science
Wanda Martin, Nursing
Jennifer Wong, Computer Science
Thomas Chisholm, Visual Arts
Jonathan Chui, Chemistry
Elly Carlson, Anthropology
G. Reza Emad, Curriculum & Instruction
Sara Duncan, Environmental Studies
Colleen Allen, German & Russian Studies
Lauren Collier-Crawford, French
Yifan Wang, Pacific & Asian Studies
Clay Lindsay, Physics & Astronomy
Lauren Chance, Psychology
James Freeman, Sociology
Josh Johnston, History
Agata Stypka, Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies
Eric Anderson, History in Art
Laura Duncanson, Geography
Colin Desjarlais, Law
Ashleigh Weeden, Public Administration
Nick Montgomery, Political Science
Yan Cao, Economics
Takuto Shiota, Director of Finance
Nicole O’Byrne, Chair
Jing Qian, Director of Student Affairs
Stacy Chappel, Executive Director (ex-officio)
Patrick Reed, Philosophy (guest)
Mark Xander Baker, Physics & Astronomy (guest)
David Huxtable: Sociology (guest)

Regrets:
Brandy Sistili, Director of Services

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm

I. Approval of Agenda
M/S Johnston/Shiota
Agenda was approved
CARRIED

II. Minutes
M/S Johnston/Chace
January 27, 2009 Grad Rep Council Minutes are approved
CARRIED
III. Executive Reports

a) Director of Student Affairs
Qian referred to written report. He reported lower academic requirements for English were suggested at the Senate Committee on Academic Standards and he raised concern about the suggestions. Qian reported he consulted international students, and did some research and learned student services had not been improved to meet needs of students who are ESL. Suggestion was voted down.
Qian noted he will not run for election and will be going for PhD at another university next year.

Director of Finance: Shiota referred to his written report. He noted the budget process is ongoing, he worked on the referendum issue, met with auditors, and will present budget at next AGM

b) Director of Services
Sistili is in Vancouver but had submitted a written report, which is in the agenda package.

c) Chair
O’Byrne referred to her written report and noted CUPE is holding fight cutbacks rally; funeral for post secondary education. There is a March at noon at the fountain; speaking at fountain 3 pm procession to legislature.

She noted at the Presidents Council she will be asking for 20 million to offset losses to scholarships.

She noted there is Ethical Governance Series: she is talking tomorrow
Wed: why constitutions matter
Next wed: Dean Devor: how to chair
The following Wednesday: Turpin on university governance

O’Byrne circulated a handout with proposed amendments to the constitution

The first proposal was to change the reference to using Robert’s rules of order so the chair “may” use Roberts rules instead of “shall”

Moved Qian

There was an objection to consideration of the motion.

M/S Dejarlais/Qian
Proposal was tabled to the 2009-2010 executive for consideration,
CARRIED

O’Byrne proposed a resolution Joe Kolthammer be asked by GRC to submit an accountability report for the time up to his resignation

M/S O’Byrne/Canning
Whereas pursuant to bylaw 9.1.d all Exec must “report to GRC and all General Meetings”
Whereas Director of Communications Joe Kolthammer resigned without reporting to the GRC

BIRT Joe Kolthammer produces a report on his activities to the GRC for the time up to his resignation.

CARRIED
IV. Committee Reports

a) President’s Appointment Committee
Shiota reported he had attended the meetings and the Interview is next Monday, Deadline Thursday for submitting questions to him.

b) Services Committee
Chui reported lucky duck events are starting next Wednesday. The first is the Wii tournament, followed by trivia night and April 1 Casino Night.

c) Martlet: communications ad hoc committee
Canning reported the committee had met to discuss the Martlet presentation from the February meeting. She said the committee discussed the role of GSS Comm vs doing own Source. Goal is community for grad students, discussed regular columns/insert as Martlet options.
Ads – refer to online publication
Quarterly insert
Improving Source
Budget? Get price for insert ($1000?)

O’Byrne noted grad students are not included in Martlet coverage and are not members of the Martlet.

Weeden suggested the GSS take caution against using more paper – and publish online instead. It was noted online reaches off-campus students better, so would better serve students in MPA and other distance and coop programs.

Shiota noted online publications need regular contribution – not monthly.

TASK: Josh, Adrienne, Agata, Nicole to keep discussing

d) Stipend Review Committee
O’Byrne sought 3-4 people to be on review committee. She noted the committee would continue in April and March to look at options. Their report would be discussed at the fall AGM

Colin Desjarlais, Yifan Wang and Wanda Martin volunteered

V. Departmental Reports

Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies: Stypka reported there will be an event Thursday: “building our Community” in University Club.

History in Art: Anderson reported department review is ongoing. The undergrads got 45 min with the reviewers and grads got 10 min and were cut off. He is writing a letter to add further information.

History Johnston reported he was away due to health. Lots of 2nd years completing thesis this semester and 1st years have held spontaneous meet ups, social events.

Sociology: Freeman reported the department is hiring, lots of potential candidates. There is low turnout at Sociology union, struggling to get it started. There is a small group of students doing lots of community service, committees. Social events: Fri 5th colloquium: Kelsie Laing and Christie Nicholls presenting.
Philosophy: Canning reported she went to access department meeting minutes but access postponed until approved by chair. Representation discussion is ongoing – meeting with advisor and chair – onus on students to say why we should be there. Chair search committee done.

[Nicole: resolution passed by GRC Sept 30; gone to FGS GEC will have guidelines set down on issues of minutes access]

Child and Youth Care: Ray reports there is a party planned! They will be submitting a department grant.

Public Administration: Weeden reports students have raised concern about the budget. Concerns are about co-op jobs for upcoming semester. There are not many co-ops available in town. MPA students are going Skating. New Director approved. Still waiting on MPA room.

Law: Desjarlais reports lots of students scrambling financially. Asked if the GSS does fund development and emergency grants.

Political Science: Montgomery had nothing new to report.

Psychology: Chance reported the department is interviewing new grad students.

Physics & Astronomy: Lindsay reported that due to student advocacy the number of courses required for and MA in Particle Physics has reduced from 8 to 6.

Dispute Resolution: Sharkey reported she heard about changes to program before holiday. In January – got email suggesting changes ongoing. Had meeting to discuss but distance students can’t come. Emailed advisor and cc students list re: constitution. Learned some distance didn’t get notice of consultation on the change. Grad advisors said too late: change is already made, they said there is nothing can do. Changed start date is this September. Program is changing format from year of coursework then 1 yr thesis to coursework - coop x 3, then thesis. They also changed credits and mandatory courses.

O’Byrne asked Sharkey to send details because other departments were consulting grad students about Emma: committee didn’t have current.

Earth and Ocean Science: Bourbonnais reported students are organizing a workshop for April with a speaker who will be in town to celebrate opening of the new building.

French: Chance reported students are working on a colloquium March 14 and 15, everyone’s welcome, speakers are in French. Department has redone a lot of courses, 1st year courses redone, restructured. Department is feeling the lack of funding, Having to find courses in other departments due to limited offerings.

Pacific and Asian Studies: Wang reported department doing promotion for 12 new courses.

Nursing: Martin reports there is a research methods symposium in public health upcoming that includes concept mapping. Offered for course credit, will send out.

Computer Science: Wong reported they received money to host their AGM March 10. Students are organizing a new symposium on how to do research, looking at multiple data issues. Recently found there are committees in department where we should have rep but don’t, she will approach chairs ad committees.
Obryne reported the Computer Science grad advisor has been a major support on the issue at Graduate Executive Council.

**Economics:** Cao reported there is a new lab instructor and a reception was held.

**Visual Arts:** Chisholm reported access to building after hours has been an issue. Students have 24 hour access, but to studio only, sometimes can't get simple equipment like a hammer, but can access very expensive equipment easily. All video edit is in alarmed room, where you can't stay late, and there is sometimes the same problem during day. Sometimes it matters only who used previously, is alarm set?

**Chemistry:** Chui reported the department has a new chair.

**Anthropology:** Carlson reported they got a computer, it was awesome.

**Curriculum and Instruction:** Reza had nothing new to report

**Environmental Studies:** Duncan reported there is a new professor of ecology and restoration, just hired mostly teaching 200 level but also taking grad students. Students were very involved in process of hiring.

**Geography:** Duncanson reported there are new students and funding is an issue. The department didn’t used to take on new without funding but this is second year of 2 yr where basis of fund is FTE increase, which puts pressure on the department to take students without offering them funding. Only have 14 funded spots, but last yrs allowing 25 students. Faculty encouraged to use their funding for their grad students. TA positions also getting funds. Grads had a ski trip to Mount Washington.

**German and Russian:** Allen reports the department is open to having rep at meetings so Collen has asked for an invitation. Department is revamping courses and focus, but students are not involved yet. March 2 in Mac Pherson, Goethe Institute hosting photographic display re traces of Berlin Wall

**Political Science:** Montgomery noted changes made to SSHRC where the federal government earmarked SSHRC funding for business related degrees.

Suggestion we move e motion to advocate a reversal of the decision.

Reallocating to business and science

**M/S Montgomery/Freeman**

WHEREAS all scholarly research at the graduate level contributes equally to the sum of human knowledge; and,

WHEREAS the federal government has prioritized the funding of graduate work in the fields of science and business;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the federal government revisit this decision and place all graduate funding on a more equitable basis.

**CARRIED**

Weeden and Stypka abstained

O’Byrne noted it was 7pm and time to adjourn.

**M/S Lindsay/Chui**
Extend meeting time to allow discussion on the remaining agenda items.
CARRIED

VI. Referendum Question

Lindsay reminded members of the lengthy discussion developing the referendum question at the February meeting, and the decision by the Executive to send a second notice with a revised question.

M/S Lindsay/Chui
GRC direct Exec to strike “in order to prevent cutbacks” from question

O’Byrne stated the GSS had obtained a legal opinion re: process approved by grad council and learned it could be contested to have the result of the referendum changed at the general meeting, even if it was to reduce the fee. It is necessary to have specific dollar amount approved by the majority of voters in a referendum. As Chair, had to decide how to proceed – went to Exec because had no time to go to GRC without having to cancel the whole process and start again.

Shiota said the “whole exec agrees this is a shitty ass question – please note that”.

Shiota encouraged everyone to vote against it if they disagree that much.

Desjarlais said that as lawyer he feels the authority is delegated to the executive and the grad council should not overturn that. He said he would sue if this was not respected.

Pollock noted the normal expectation is the GRC as higher authority can overturn Executive. The question could be withdrawn, and the GSS could go back in few months.

Chui stated he felt the question is misleading, should withdraw as it is not moral to mislead the members.

Montgomery stated there are two issues. One is the legal question; the other is the moral question. He suggested publicizing better information.

Sharkey said this mirrors what happened with her program consultation – she said she wants to have better process.

FAILED

Shiota and Desjarlais noted their abstentions.

M/S Lindsay/Montgomery
BIRT a motion to amend Bylaws 4.3 is put forward for consideration at the Semi Annual General Meeting on March 31, 2009, as follows

BIRT Bylaw 4.3, which currently reads

4.3. Referenda

a. Referenda shall be initiated by:

   i. a resolution of the Executive Board; or

   ii. a resolution passed by two-thirds (2/3) of Grad Council; or

   iii. a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the members of the Society.
b. Referenda questions shall be phrased by the Executive Board. However, where a referendum is initiated by petition, the phrasing shall not alter the original intent of the petition.

is amended, striking the words “Referenda questions shall be phrased by the Executive Board.”

CARRIED by 2/3 majority

Shiota noted his abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Minutes approved by:

Nicole O’Byrne, Chair
Stacy Chappel, Executive Director

2009-01-23 Exec Minutes
sc/bk/SC