Present:

Nicole O’Byrne (Chair)  
Takuto Shiota (Director of Finance)  
Brandy Sistili (Director of Services)  
Rebecca Littlechilds (Greek & Roman Studies)  
Lauren Collier-Crawford (French)  
Melissa Ray (Child & Youth Care)  
Ashleigh Weeden (Public Administration)  
Branden Smith (Biochemistry & Microbiology)  
Yifan Wang (Pacific & Asian Studies)  
Guest (Comp Science)  
Jonathan Chui (Chemistry)  
Sara Duncan, (Environmental Studies)  
Agata Stypka (Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies)  
Gholam Reza Emad (Curriculum & Instruction)  
Emily McMilin (Electrical & Computer Engineering)  
Emma Sharkey (Dispute Resolution)  
Gianmarco Biasone (Political Science)  
Wanda Martin (Nursing)  
James Freeman (Sociology)  
Clay Lindsay (Physics & Astronomy)  
Ashley Cumming (Music)  
Annie Bourbonnais (Earth & Ocean Sciences)  
Thomas Chisholm (Visual Arts)  
Lauren Chace (Psychology)  
Andy Wong (Economics)  
Josh Johnston (History)  
Adrienne Canning (Philosophy)  
Megan Kirk (Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education)  
Stacy Chappel (Executive Director)  

Regrets:

Jing Qian (Director of Student Affairs)  
Megan Kirk

STANDING ITEMS

1. Approve Agenda
M/S Canning/Johnston
Agenda is approved with the following changes:
Add appointment to Associate Dean of Social Sciences appointment committee
Add Health plan update
Strike duplicate stipend committee

CARRIED

2. Approve minutes

M/S Johnston/Kirk

Minutes for February 24, 2009 GRC meeting are approved with the following changes:
Chance: regarding $20,000,000 scholarship request, Chance noted FOGS was asking for this amount.
P. 6 strike comment about O’Byrnes comment about changing bylaws re question referendum
The meeting adjourned 7:39 and “French” is misspelled.

Lindsay asked for a note regarding Law rep comment about taking legal action about referendum

CARRIED

3. Executive Reports

Director of Student Affairs: Qian’s report attached, he sends his regrets.

Director of Finance: Shiota reported he worked on budget, which is circulated with the agenda.

2. Director of Services: Sistili referred to written report. Note casino night April 1. Thanks to services ctt ee for all work on events. Trivia Night was full house—about 25 students, great Chemistry host. Have prizes, donations, food. Health and Dental Received a quote – referendum regarding dental plan fee increase. Wouldn’t be adding services. Haven’t had a dental increase since 2004. H&D is done every year, but usually health plan is what we do.

Chappel: reported the plan is just breaking even this year.

Chair: O’Byrne reported CFS meeting with Calgary grad students next week. Still talking to Min AVED and Deputy Min regarding change to university act. Resolution on cuts to SSHRC. Orig. info from Dean Devor and then at Pres Admin story wasn’t as bad.. need to pay attention.

Wong asked what funding changes would be.
O’Byrne said we don’t know, meet with VP Research next year is best way to find out specifics of impact. In Ottawa met with MP from NDP. NDP petition re: SSHRC. Sent resolution to Denise Savoie. Took around to MP at the hill. O’Byrne reported SFU closing Canadian Studies program. Student representation GEC meeting April 6. Adrienne went to last one, it was tabled to April 6. Adrienne and Nicole will both go. Senate Seats discussed at presidents meeting. Say we will have 3 senate seats for grad studies. Need to keep pushing on that. BOG submitting brief to minister re seats at BOG. Referendum: now have about $30,000 more annually as of May 1 fees. O’Byrne says she knows it was a tough process, but will see in budget discussion that this will have an impact. Is concerned we had 6% turn out, should have higher turnout with a fee increase. Accountability reports: O’Byrne points out basic purpose of accountability report is to approve pay of executive. O’Byrne read relevant bylaw aloud.

Re: Resolution requesting Kolthammer director report. O’Byrne referred to written report from Kolthammer submitted as per the request from the previous meeting. O’Byrne reported he was acting chair: he was signing authority, but that ended in August. She reported Kolthammer mentions December 5 meeting was cancelled. O’Byrne asked that it be noted for the record the meeting was cancelled in December because it was previously decided the meeting was unnecessary.

[Kirk left the meeting]

O’Byrne referred to Kolthammer’s comments about hostile executive, agreed this is true. She said she experienced attacks on personal integrity, and wants it noted in the minutes that she has never violated professional ethics.

Sistili responded saying reporting the meeting was cancelled is not necessarily hostile or meant to be negative, there was an attempt by some exec to meet as per usual every 2 weeks. Sistili said it has been pretty terrible, she has been very disappointed. Sistili apologizes that everyone has been involved in the Executive’s dispute at GRC meetings. She said she didn’t like the tone of the meeting, would like GRC to be collegial. She apologized that her own tone has become terrible in the last meeting.

Sistili said she has every hope next board will be successful at working well together.

4. Committee reports

a. Senate Committee on learning and teaching

Chui: Development of Turnitin. Since started, using there were 618 assignments submitted to Turnitin. Completely original, 25-50%, 50-75% or entirely copy and paste from the source. 10% of all assignments were 75% to 100% similar to existing works.
If debate in department about whether this is necessary, the answer is possibly yes. Some students resourceful cutting and pasting from multiple sources. 80 reports from Soc and 32 had 75% or more unoriginal.

A member asked, Is prosecution of fraudulent cases pursued at a higher rate?

Chui said he is not privy to how departments deal with it afterward.

Biasone asked what follow up would be used to see how accurate the claim is.

Weeden suggested it is useful for a prior submission—catches errors where you don’t cite things correctly, etc.

Chui said right now policy is that it is a tool people are choosing to use. There is one more meeting in summer.

O’Byrne asked Jon to keep people appraised.

b. President reappointment Committee.

Shiota reports David Turpin has been reappointed.

c. Services Committee

Chui reported trivia night lots of fun: casino night needs card dealers. Will be fun. Group has worked very hard organizing event. Thanks to reps who have been distributing ducks.

d. Stipend Committee

Yifan steps down from Stipend Committee as he intends to stand for Student Affairs committee.

M/S

Sara Duncan is elected 3rd rep to Stipend Committee

CARRIED

5. Department Reports

Greek & Roman Studies: Littlechilds had nothing to report

French: Collier-Crawford noted their colloquium went well.
Child & Youth care: Ray reported the HSD grad conference in on Thursday and Friday. The website is www.conference.uvic.ca and schedule is posted there. I am at 10 am. Had meeting with grad advisory and director met to discuss grad program.

Public Administration: Weeden reported that those in danger of using jobs due to budget cuts: still ok. Student representation—MPA has good experience of grad representation on department committees, so if looking for advocate or example, contact her.

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Smith had nothing to report

Pacific & Asian Studies: Wang had nothing new to report

Comp Science: A member said she is filling in for Jennifer: AGM met with all comp scie students, interesting issues came up. Supervisor relationships – unclear on how that is meant to work. Curriculum in comp ci—such a bread area—students thought needs a revamp, has been heard by dept.

Chemistry: Chui had nothing new to report

Environmental Studies: Duncan reported the new professor hire was now announced: Dr. Brian Zurstowski from Dalhousie starts June. ENVI school potluck march 31.

Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies: Stypka reported the event February went well. Curriculum & Instruction: Emad reported renovation upcoming remove wall between secretary and grad secretary.

Electrical & Computer Engineering: McMilin noted the department is having a first party tomorrow, and an election, starting department union. Looking at making a Faculty union.

Dispute Resolution: Sharkey had nothing to report.

Political Science: Biasone noted there is a new chair appointment. Assuming role in January.

Nursing: Martin reported the HSD conf coming up. Had website updated.

Sociology: Freeman reported the department finished the search for new prof. last colloq Friday at 2:30.

Physics & Astronomy: Lindsay had nothing to report
Music: Cumming reported the dean’s term is up, search cttee; grad student on cttee.

Earth & Ocean Science: Bourbonnais reported new bldg is done. She is sitting on a committee working to organize workshop in Duncan. Going well. Decided to do workshop same day as grand opening of new building. Caving day (spelunking!) was lots of fun!

Visual Arts: Chisholm reported building access issues have been cleared up, but not fixed... Graduating students having thesis exhibit up early May (7th?) in VIA bldg. Then will move to legacy gallery (UVIC downtown).

Psychology: Chace reported on the SSHRC transfer fees: got a letter saying Dean Devor will be in touch on the issue.

Economics: Wong said he is sitting in for Catherine. Nothing to report.

History: Johnston reported it has been quiet. Getting journal published. Planning camping trip in May.

Philosophy: Canning reported the department has announced new hire: Mike Raven, from NYU. Was student top choice from the list. Met with faculty about representation issue, clarify what everyone was looking for, found some common ground—faculty retracted some of hard line. Had grad event (with dept grant) got all but one first year, and several 2nd year to UVIC lab. Colloquium Friday

NEW BUSINESS

6. Budget

A draft budget was circulated. Chappel noted it is online. Asked if people have concerns raise before may be able to accommodate at SAGM.

7. Director of Finance and Director of Student Affairs positions

Director of Student Affairs vacancy

Jing Qian has announced he would be unable to take on the role of Student Affairs as previously planned as he will be leaving UVIC for his PhD soon. The position will be filled by election at the Semi-Annual General Meeting.

Yifan Wang introduced himself—he has been Pacific and Asian Studies grad rep this year. He has had 5 years experience working in student government in China, and has been past president of Chinese
Cultural Association. He will be standing for election at the AGM to Student Affairs position and asked for the support of his fellow grad reps.

**Director of Finance vacancy**

Andy Wong introduced himself as the recently acclaimed director of finance. However, he reported he has been offered a co-op in Ottawa for the Summer, and no local co-op, so he needs to take it. Two options, first is that Tak Shiota continues on as Director Finance until September. Second is he steps down. Bringing up right now so everyone has a chance to discuss and think about it, so you are ready to vote, or if you think someone else is appropriate encourage them to stand at the AGM. Andy says he would be thrilled to take on the position, has the necessary skills and qualifications, if you want to know more, by all means come talk to him after the meeting.

Sharkey asked whether Shiota is ok with this idea.

Shiota says he is ok with idea, nice to be there for the audit.

**3. Appointment Committee for the Associate Dean Social Science**

There were no volunteers. Everyone asked to ask in their Social Science departments.

**4. Summer meetings**

O’Byrne said it has not been common practice, but she encouraged grad council to continue meeting over the summer.

Canning asked if someone is going to be away, people should be to swap out. A priority is to beef up orientation this year.

Asked for interest: 21/3 of members interested

---

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Freeman called out for grad reps interested in communication committee.

The meeting adjourned 6:33 pm.

Approved, Chair

Approved, Executive Director