The meeting was called to order at 5:14 with Adrienne Canning in the Chair.

I. Election of a chair
Canning introduced Patrick Reed, past GSS Chair.

M/S

Patrick Reed is elected Chair of the October 27, 2009 GSS Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

Reed welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated the members on an excellent turn out. He promised the meeting shouldn’t take too long. He gave a brief introduction to Robert’s Rules.

II. Agenda

M/S Keane/Pollock

The Agenda is approved with the following additions to Other Business:

1. GSS printer disposal
2. Office space issue
3. IKONPS printer
4. Athletics fee vote
5. Convocation/Invocation
6. Upcoming Events/Announcements

CARRIED

III. SAGM Minutes

M/S Rowan/Duncan

The minutes from the March 31, 2009 SGM are approved

Motion to amend Pollock/Keane

Amend Motion 5 to note “Executive Board was asked to bring a new proposal regarding authority for phrasing of referenda questions to the next AGM in consultation with the Grad Council”

Amendment Carried

Minutes CARRIED as amended

IV. Report of the GSS Executive Board

Canning referred to the written report. Canning noted the Senate representation campaign had been successful, and senate seats will be increasing from one graduate student to three. She reported she had met with University Secretary Julia Eastman and it seemed unlikely UVic will change BOG seats without a change to the legislation (University Act).

Canning thanked the members of the Athletics Fee campaign (“ruckus committee“) for their hard work. Canning thanked the members who had supported the campaign for increasing childcare on campus.

Reed opened the floor to questions.
M/S Schröter/McCluskey

Report of the GSS Executive Board is accepted as written.

CARRIED

Canning introduced Amy Cox, who has been elected by the Graduate Representative Council as the new Director of Communications.

V. Approval of the Audited Statements

Shiota referred to the audit, which was circulated to the members. He noted the Grad House owes the operating fund $131,000, which is past losses still being recovered. He noted there were also minor deficits in the Operating and Capital funds.

Shiota referred to the statement of revenue and expenses. He noted there had been an increase in maintenance costs from Uric resulting in that line being $10,000 over budget. The GSS is contesting the accuracy of some billing.

Shiota noted the membership fee paid each term has reduced as the GSS members are no longer part of the CFS.

M/S Shiota/Pollock

The Audit for the University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society dated March 31, 2009 is approved.

Pollock requested the relevant budget is attached to the audit at the next AGM.

CARRIED

VI. Appointment of the Auditors

M/S Keane/Canning

Obara & Company is reappointed as the auditors for the University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society for the 2010 audit.

CARRIED

VII. Budget Revision

Shiota referred to the proposed revision to the budget. He noted there had been an 8% enrollment increase which significantly increased membership fee revenue as compared to the budget.
Shiota proposed changes to the budget to cover increasing in staffing. He noted this year there would be a mat leave and sick leave taken by permanent staff, and while the GSS offers these benefits there isn't really a dedicated budget for this purpose. In addition, the GSS office staff have unionized, which means there will need to be a contingency kept for the purpose of adjusting wages as part of the bargaining process. He also proposed an increase to the campaign and communications fund, to help the transition to online publications, and to the “Outreach” line, which funds social events.

Pollock noted that if the GSS wants something more than just a blog for the unacknowledged source, it will cost more to produce.

Cox reported the website is changing to a wordpress site for easier management.

Keane asked if there were other contingencies that may need to be covered by the contingency fund, for example legal council during the campaigns or collective bargaining process.

Chappel noted the society will need to be prepared for legal costs due to the campaign, and likely only minor expenses related to bargaining, such as reviewing the proposed contract. The Society is having a leak in the roof examined, but this would ultimately be a capital expense if it was a major cost, not from the operating fund.

Musekamp asked if there could be a fund created for covering staff maternity or sickness leaves.

Reed suggested Musekamp could make a motion to create such a fund during Other Business.

Pollock asked if the department and travel grants were reflective of what was used.

Shiota reported the department is administered by the GSS and has increased to $500 maximum. The travel grant has been consistently $30,000 annually, except for the year of the renovation when the Faculty of Graduate Studies agreed to a one time reduction in our contribution to help with cash flow following the renovation expense. The Faculty of Graduate Studies contributes at least double our contribution to the travel grants annually. Shiota noted there are limited funds, so increasing the individual grant amount means reducing the overall number of grants.

M/S Shiota/Pauls

*The revised GSS Budget is accepted as follows:*
VIII. Motions received with notice

Reed reported there are no motions received with notice.

IX. Other Business

a. Personnel contingency

M/S Musekamp/ Schröter

The GSS Finance Committee is directed to create a segregated fund for personnel contingency.

CARRIED

b. Restaurant finances

M/S Pollock/Irwin

The executive is directed to hold an open house to brainstorm about the Grad House restaurant.

CARRIED

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c. **Printer (Lexmark)**

Chappel reported the GSS has a surplus Lexmark laser printer. It works but has become redundant as our photocopier can now also act as the main printer. Common practice for such surplus is to offer it to departments where grad students can use the equipment in their office space. Departments have a week to submit their request to be included in a draw to award the printer to a grad student office.

d. **Office Space**

**M/S Pauls/Musekamp**

The GSS is directed to survey students regarding office and study space and determine equity and inequity in resources for grad students.

Park spoke in favor of the motion, noting that second year funding, assistance for events and travel is also an issue.

Canning also spoke in favor, and noted that while CUPE had raised office space for TA as a concern, this is not just a TA issue.

Pauls reported English literally had 96 students and no desks.

**Motion to amend Hough/Pollock**

amend to add:

GSS is further directed to measure actual square footage in each department, consider accessibility issues, and comfort issues, such as access to water.

**Amendment CARRIED**

CARRIED as amended

**M/S Musekamp/Keane**

The GSS strikes an ad hoc “Office Space Committee” to deal with the office space issue.

CARRIED

Nominations to chair the ad hoc committee were opened.

Leina Pauls was nominated and accepted the nomination. (Thanks Leina!)

Nominations closed.

**M/S Pollock/Canning**

Leina Pauls is elected Chair of the ad-hoc Office Space Committee

CARRIED
e. IKONPS Printer

Zakeri reminded members the IKONPS printer, where grad students can currently print for free, is being closed December 15. ECE wants to find a way to keep the printer going, either for a fee or with a print limit.

Caldeira noted it would be important to continue being able to print from everywhere on campus.

M/S Zakeri/Caldeira

The GSS opposes the closure of the IKONPS Printer.

It was reported the Computer Help desk wouldn’t help students set up the printer in their department to print to IKONPS.

Pollock suggested if someone had the set up instructions, to send to the GSS for circulation to grad reps. It was reported Psychology and ECE are currently using IKONPS. Math, Physics and Sociology have in-house printing. Students in Sociology must provide own paper.

Riddet asked who runs the IKONPS printer

Caldeira said it is the CASS department (University's computer systems department)

It was suggested to consider printing access in the space audit.

It was suggested we shouldn’t encourage more use as that might strengthen the argument to close the printer. Zakeri confirmed he was told the printer is being shut down due to usage being high.

Keane noted that if there is to be a general printing service for grad students it should be equally available to all students, not just select departments.

CARRIED

f. Athletics Campaign

Canning reported UVic held what they call a “consultative ballot” to determine whether students support a $55 increase (per term) to the mandatory athletics fee. The Grad Council was very effective at mobilizing grad students, and the campaign committee was successful and raising the issues. As a result, while the ballot passed at 53% in favour of the increase, 77% of graduate students were opposed. This shows strong opposition among graduate students, and the GSS has secured a commitment that this result will be included in the report to the Board of Governors. The deadline to write the Board of Governors to have the letter included in the docket for the November meeting is November 9. The GSS has submitted a letter objecting to the fee and arguing it violates BC’s Tuition Limit Policy to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development.
Musekamp asked what suggestions there are for action.

Canning said right now is to get letters sent to the Board of Governors.

Shiota asked when the Board of Governors will vote.

Canning reported the November meeting will receive information, and the January meeting would vote on whether to proceed with the plans.

Pollock (GSS rep to Campus Planning) noted the proposed athletics facility is necessary for the current plan to build a parkade. Many have opposed the parkade, but many don't know the projects are connected.

M/S Shiota/McLeish

The Graduate Students' Society opposes the proposed $55 athletics fee increase.

Amendment moved Musekamp

to amend the motion to read:

Whereas 77% of graduate students who voted opposed the athletics fee increase,

The Graduate Students' Society opposes the proposed $55 athletics fee increase.

Amendment CARRIED

Shiota called for a division.

CARRIED as Amended UNANIMOUSLY

g. Convocation/Invocation

Canning reported she is sitting on the sub committee of the Convocation Committee to examine the invocation at convocation.

Canning reported the university is seeking informal feedback regarding opinions about the invocation/religious content in the convocation ceremony. She asked that feedback be emailed to her at gsschair@uvic.ca.

X. Adjournment

M/S Schröter/McLeish

The October 27, 2009 Annual General Meeting of the University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society is adjourned.

CARRIED
Minutes Approved:

______________________________  ________________________________
GSS Chair                                          GSS Executive Director