EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2009

Present:
Adrienne Canning, Amy Cox, Agata Stypka, Takuto Shiota, Yifan Wang, Stacy Chappel, Leanne Wiltsie (guest)

Regrets:
none

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am with Canning in the Chair

STANDING ITEMS

1. Meeting with Leanne Wiltsie

Wiltsie, graduate student senator, introduced herself. She noted she wants to keep in touch with the GSS in order to ensure better representation of graduate students at Senate.

Wiltsie sits on the Planning and Priorities Committee of the Senate and notes the following:

The committee works on a 5 year cycle with the development of the strategic plan. Consultation begins next year, with biweekly meetings. This is therefore a good time to start planting seeds for those discussions. Key themes in discussion seem to be that major capital expenditures will not continue in the next phase. The committee keeps hearing words like "sharpen" and "focus"—meaning UVIC aims to improve solidify current programs.

In addition, 2013 is the 50th anniversary of UVIC, so this may be a good time to seek funds for major projects to open in tandem with this anniversary.

Growth areas in enrolment will be international students and aboriginal students. UVIC students tend to be middle class students.

Wiltsie also sits on Senate Committee on Libraries. On this committee, issues of interest include:

Transition to DSPACE for online thesis publication did not eliminate the charge for printing your thesis.

At Senate, graduate student representation increased from 1 seat to 3 designated graduate student seats.
It was hard to jump in to this role mid-term. Previous year’s senator, Jing Qian, was successful at stopping reduction in required TOEFL score at Senate, but the motion was reintroduced and passed this year.

Yifan noticed the key was not so much the score as the need to improve services to English as a Foreign Language graduate students.

Wiltzie noted there are new graduate programs being approved, most of them offered online.

Canning noted many new programs seem to be billed as having “no on-campus impact” and even requiring no resources. Some note they are targeting “self funded students” as a reason no graduate fellowships will need to be allocated.

Stypka noted that on the Committee on Planning when she was represented, students were not part of the consultation in development of the programs until the vote to approve at Senate.

Chappel asked whether duties of one executive member could be changed to include representation of distance students.

Canning noted inclusion of senators and BOG reps in GRC meetings would also be helpful.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   
   M/S
   
   Agenda is approved
   
   CARRIED

3. **Approval of Minutes**
   
   M/S
   
   Minutes for November 24, 2009 are approved.
   
   CARRIED

4. **Business arising from the minutes**

   Canning noted MITACS information is still to come.

5. **Executive Reports**

   Finance: Shiota reported the restaurant is doing well. He also noted several people said they are coming to events after meeting Agata!

   Communications: Cox noted she met with Chappel regarding the Source and have an online plan for the Source that will cost $5/month for hosting. Tim Scolnick is updating the new GSS website currently. The handbook content was also discussed. All articles for the January Source issue are complete.

   Services: Stypka reported board games night had been full to capacity and was well received. Winter events are now being planned, and Claudine and Elly are still volunteering and Josh has now volunteered too!

   **TASK:** Agata to send an event roster to the Executive Board.
Student Affairs: Wang reported he attended the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee meeting and wrote his section of the Annual Report for the AGM.

Chair: Canning reported she attended personnel meetings.

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INTERNAL BUSINESS

6. **Personnel**

   The meeting went in camera for a personnel report.

   [Yifan left at 11:05 am]

7. **Campaigns**

   a. **Childcare**

   Chappel reported the Board of Governors had met November 23 and rejected the option of outsourcing to big box childcare “for now”. Jamie Cassells had also called for a “cooling off period” on the issue.

   There was no clear commitment made to consultation with interested groups as had been requested by the Childcare Action Group.

   Chappel and Stypka will attend the next Childcare Action Group meeting at 11:30 am.

   **TASK:** Chappel to circulate a full briefing.

8. **VPAC hiring**

   Shiota asked for input for the VPAC hiring.

   Canning stated her concern is the process of developing new programs and reviewing them—this seems a difficult process to include student input, and there seems to be an increase in creation of programs requiring “zero resources” in their proposal. There must be HR funds needed (i.e. a graduate secretary) and an academic budget needed.

   [Chappel and Stypka left at 1:20am]

9. **Health and Dental Plan Briefing**

   **TABLED**

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CLOSING ITEMS

Next meeting will be in 2010, to be announced.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.**

sc/ts/SC
Minutes approved by:

Adrienne Canning, Chair

Stacy Chappel, Executive Director