Present:
Department: Grad Rep
Anthropology: Claudine Gravel Miguel
Biochemistry: Eli Nix
Biology: Leslie Rietveld
Child & Youth Care: Jessica Evans
Computer Science: Adrian Schröter
Curriculum and Instruction: Yanping Cui
Dispute Resolution: Elton Simoes
Earth & Ocean Science (SEOS): Nastasja Scholz
Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education: Emily George
English: Leina Pauls
Environmental Studies: Ashley Park
French: Francisco Moises
Geography: Hawley Beaugrand
Germanic & Slavick Studies: Veronica Bhandar
History: Adam Hough
Indigenous Social Work: Rebecca Taylor
Law: Mike Large
Linguistics: Taylor Young
Mathematics & Statistics: Rena Mann
Mechanical Engineering: Conrad Fox
Music: Analise Smith
Nursing: Wanda Martin
Pacific & Asian Studies: Kimberly Ruta
Philosophy Rep: Matthew Riddett
Physics & Astronomy: Aaron Maxwell
Political Science Rep: Matthew Park
Psychology: Valerie Caldeira
Social Work: Emily Gaede
Sociology: Stephanie Cram
Studies in Policy and Practice: Kalin McCluskey
Visual Arts: Megan Press

Regrets:
none

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm with Adrienne Canning in the Chair

STANDING ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved as presented.

The chair noted there are new members for Public Admin and Curriculum and Instruction, and welcomed them.
The chair noted Mr. Babak Zakeri has resigned as the Electrical and Computer Engineering rep and thanked him for his work. Babak is currently seeking a replacement.

2. Approval of Minutes
   M/S Schröter/Riddet
   Minutes for the Graduate Representative Council meeting November 24\textsuperscript{th}, 2009 were approved with corrections.
   CARRIED

3. Business arising from the minutes
   None.

4. Executive Reports
   Director of Communications
   Cox announced the publication of the winter 09/10 Unacknowledged Source, and called for submissions (especially from the sciences) for the next issue, entitled “The Future”.

   Director of Services
   Stypka announced the success of some recent GSS events, and apologized for the email bombardment. Wednesday morning Coffee and Muffins is going well, and the Craigdarroch Castle trip was sold-out. She invited members to attend the Bond-themed party on February 5th.

   Director of Student Affairs
   Wang referred to his written reports.

   Director of Finance
   Shiota referred to his written report, and noted that he was extremely busy with GSS activities.

   Chairperson
   Canning referred to her written report, and noted the following:
   The GSS had a major success, winning Educational Psychology students in the second year of the counseling program a refund of the $350 fee.
   The GEC is considering clarifying rules on whether external examiner notes on a thesis are shared with the student; looked at electronic thesis submission and clarifying length of time a thesis is confidential (ie for Intellectual property).
   She met with the union and UVSS presidents and discussed campus privatization.
   The call for a member of the welcome centre advisory is still open.

   M/S Riddet/Taylor
   The January 2010 Executive Reports are accepted as presented
   CARRIED

5. Department Reports
   Computer Science:
Schröter reported students in computer science continue to be happy!

Philosophy
Riddet reported the department is hiring new faculty

Anthropology
Miguel reported the PhD program was approved. A tutoring program where grads tutor undergrads has been started.

Public Administration
Simoes noted it was his first meeting, and he had nothing to report.

English
Pauls reported Clerihue seems to be having no seismic upgrade, and instead is getting sprinklers. There are new advisors and a new chair selection is underway. The English Grad Society is newly formed and very active, holding a festivus party, monthly meetings, and working for the members. In particular, the EGSS wants to know which departments match the GSS/FGS travel grants.

Nursing:
Martin reported there is a new visiting scholar helping with research.

Child and Youth Care
Evans reported it was good to come back for the new year, and there was a gathering for PhD students to present research.

French:
Moises reported the department appreciated their $500 GSS department grant! The department is about the hire three new staff, lots of visits from professors.

Earth and Ocean Science
Scholz said there was nothing new to report.

Psychology
Caldeira reported there is new faculty. There was a flood last year, but it has been dealt with. The department needs printing and photocopying, and students pay for copies.

Environmental Studies
Park reported the department is undergoing a director search, which is currently internal. ENVI students have been active, started a seminar series, regularly every Friday at 3:30, but this week it’s Thursday, and Features Nancy Turner.

Studies in Policy and Practice
McCluskey reported there is a professor on leave so course availability needs to be resolved. HSD is having informal research meetings and talks for grad students. The department is looking to do something fun!

Exercise science, Physical Health and Education
George reported the director search is ongoing and there is a strategic review as well. There are copiers and printers in the office, but they are on different card systems, which is frustrating.
Mechanical Engineering
Fox reported MEGA—the Mechanical Engineering Graduate students Association is formed and just finished the bylaws—will be seeking advice.

[Chappel volunteered to meeting with Fox].

The department is appointing a new chair, but using the old policy that includes grad students.

History:
Adam reported the Qualicum conference is this weekend. He canvassed the students and there are no problems currently. Promotion of the program to new students is online right now.

Geography
Beaugrand reported the external review was positive.

Biology
Rietveld reported there is a new chair, Dr. Delaney (also her supervisor!). There was a seismic upgrade to the building.

Curriculum and Instruction
Cui reported it is her first meeting. Students are organizing a conference in language and literacy to encourage grad research.

Germanic and Slavick Studies:
Bhandar reported they received funds to bring in a speaker from the GSS. They are settling in to their new space. Thanks to the Law rep (Large) for suggesting the public space in the library as a good space to study, it is nice to feel welcomed!

Music
Smith reported the grad advisor is back and students are busy with final compositions. Jean-Jacques Nattiez is speaking in the department.

Visual Arts:
Press reported the grad students are involved in portfolio assessment for undergrad admissions, and students are going to LA for a gallery crawl.

Economics
Chirapani reported he is attending for Grace Lee, who couldn’t attend. He reported that when the chair was asked about funding printing for students, he asked if the GSS would contribute. Students had access to a lounge on the second floor, but that is now not available. He asked if other departments have business cards.

Schröter noted every student can get 250 cards with the UVIC logo for $50, but it must go through a FAST transaction, which means it needs departmental approval and administration.

It was noted this is provided free for students in business and geography.

Political Science
Park reported the department chair is back and there is regular consultation with the Grad Politics Society and informal problem solving. A program review has begun and grad students have already initiated their own discussions.

**Physics**
Maxwell reported his department has smooth sailing.

**Mathematics and Statistics**
Mann reported a recruitment day was held, and an event to help undergrads apply for the NSERC. The department has a new chair.

**Pacific and Asian Studies**
Ruta reported things are mostly going smoothly.

**Linguistics**
Young reported when it comes to printing being funded, the department suggested the GSS fund it. There are new faculty members.

**Law**
Large noted the law library is public, just like MacPherson, and very quiet. Grad students in law also have offices now in the expanded space due to the renovation.

**Sociology**
Cram had no news.

**Indigenous Social Work**
Taylor reported she is in second year and is in the cohort of the pilot for her program. The third year starts in May, and it seems it will become permanent.

## INTERNAL BUSINESS

### 6. Financial Report
Shiota circulated a third quarter report. He apologized it wasn’t sent with the agenda, as the report was just completed today. He noted the funds are on target, except building maintenance costs are higher than expected. There has been no spending on capital and the building fund this year to date.

Since reps may wish to take longer to read the statements, Shiota offered to have discussion/questions by email or the next meeting. gssfinan@uvic.ca

### 7. Senate
Canning reported Leanne Wiltsie will now be regularly invited to the Grad Council as the GSS senate rep, however she isn’t able to attend today.

Wiltsie did meet with the Exec and noted upcoming issues are a proposal to the Senate to change the structure of hiring committees for department chairs to make student seats on the committee optional.
Canning reported the GSS executive met with the president. On the childcare issue, the GSS advocated a joint consultation involving all interested groups being at the table, but Cassells said UVIC administration prefers to meet individually. He said he didn’t see it as a campus wide issue, and the BOG didn’t require the consultation. On Athletics the exec was told the progress on the new building was halted due to funding concerns, and the student fees are the only fixed funding for the project. The GSS is still waiting to hear back on this from the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Canning asked that students in a program that switched to a one year MA let her know if they are experiencing problems. The GSS let Dean Devor (Faculty of Grad Studies) know concerns had been raised regarding reduction to a one year program without significant program changes, and he said his office is willing to conduct a review. He is interested to hear from students, in confidence if they prefer.

Shiota noted that another issue raised is that the fee to apply to graduate used to be transferrable if your defense was delayed a semester, but now you must reapply and pay again.

M. Park asked whether campus groups could start their own consultation on childcare.

Canning reported the GSS is already participating in the Childcare Action Group, which now has joint chairing by two faculty, a UVSS member and a GSS member, and membership from all the unions (staff), faculty, as well as the student groups.

8. **Athletics Campaign**

McKluskey reported that the formal complaint had been submitted, but as yet there was not response.

She attended the BOG meeting and a standard progress report that included the athletics building timelines was approved along with other similar reports. The report didn’t include anything on funding.

9. **Campus Garden**

Martin reported she is an active member of the campus garden, which is over by the Enterprise Facility. The garden has a five year agreement, which is about to be up, and now UVIC is saying the garden will be moved. Concerns include rumours the garden will be moved to the CJVI lands, where there are no lights and there is no running water, which is problematic for students gardening evenings, and of course because water is essential. There has been another suggestion of a smaller garden in Family Housing, however, it is not ideal.

The garden is used by many students, and also as an instructional location on campus.

Martin will circulate a letter and petition.

10. **Resource equity audit**

Pauls reported plans to conduct an audit continue. She reported she is seeking two reps from each department to audit other departments for space, supplies, and support to grad students. In addition a student from the department space being audited would be helpful as a “tour guide” and also to answer questions about resources such as matching grants for travel etc. If anyone is interested in helping, please email at englphd@uvic.ca.

Large asked if there would be a form to use.
Pauls said there would be a standard form, but with room for comments to ensure we get the full picture, because every department has specific space requirements and tools.

Schröter noted that in computer science, much of the resources are provided by the faculty or department, sometimes purchased with grants the faculty have obtained, rather than supplied by UVIC.

Taylor thanked Pauls for all her work.

11. **Food and Beverage Consultation**

Shiota noted that at the AGM he was directed to hold consultation with grad students regarding the restaurant. He invited everyone to come February 10, 2-4 pm, GSS 108. Cookies will be provided, along with coffee!

12. **James Bond**

Stypka reminded everyone to come to the James Bond Party!

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**CLOSING ITEMS**

13. **Next Meeting**

February 23, 2010, 5pm

**Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm**

Minutes approved by:

______________________________  ______________________________
Adrienne Canning, Chair        Stacy Chappel, Executive Director

*Sign in sheet vote*
Michael Jackson: 10
Madonna: 7
Motley Crue: 8
Best write in: Motley Crue in a zombie attack: 1