PRESENT:

Anthropology: Claudine Gravel Miguel  
Biochemistry & Microbiology: Ralph McWhinnie  
Biology: Leslie Rietveld  
Chemistry: Katherine Davies  
Child & Youth Care: Tara Skobel  
Community Development: Barbara West  
Computer Science: Alejandro Erickson  
Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies: Kelly Logue  
Electrical & Computer Engineering: Ping Lee  
English: Leah Ellingwood  
Exercise Science, Physical Health & Education: Lauren Sulz  
French: Erin Fairweather  
Germanic & Slavic Studies: Ryan Severyn  
Greek & Roman Studies: Jessica Romney  
Hispanic & Italian Studies: Estelle Kurier  
History: Nicholas Burton-Vulovic  
Law: Supriya Routh  
Music: Twila Bakker  
Nursing: Laura Tomm-Bonde  
Pacific & Asian Studies: Lynda Cameron  

Philosophy: Matthew Riddett  
Physics & Astronomy: Frank Berghaus  
Political Science: Georgina Nicoll  
Psychology: Tracy Desjardins  
Sociology: Camille Stengel  
Studies in Policy & Practice: Julia Munk  
Visual Arts: Matt Trahan  
Director of Communications and Acting Chair: Adrienne Canning  
Director of Finance: Matt Park  
Director of Services: Nick Graham  
Director of Student Affairs: Qi Ke  

GUESTS (NON-VOTING):
Mental Health Task Force: Serena Kataoka  
Student Senator: Gordon Ruby  
Matthew Riddett (Philosophy)  
Jennifer Smith (Law)  
GSS Office Assistant, taking minutes: David Huxtable  

REGRETS:
GSS Executive Director (Ex-officio): Stacy Chappell  
Earth and Ocean Science: Jon Furlong  
Linguistics: Thomas Magnuson  

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm with Adrienne Canning acting as Chair.

STANDING ITEMS

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

The chair recognized the following people who were new to the meeting:
Serena Kataoka (Mental Health Task Force – committee representative, guest)  
Tracy Desjardins (Psychology representative)  
Matt Riddett, sitting in for Mike Antony (Philosophy)

GSS Graduate Representative Council Minutes November 30, 2010
Gordon Ruby (CUPE 4163, Senate Representative)

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   
   M/S Rietveld/Bakker
   
   Minutes for the Graduate Representative Council meeting September 25th, 2010 were approved with the following corrections:
   
   1. (pg6) French report – new course is not being offered in “the Synagogue,” but rather, in Senegal
   2. (pg 5) Chemistry report: van Veggel, not Veggel
   
   CARRIED

3. **Business arising from the minutes**
   
   None.

4. **Departmental Reports**
   
   **Nursing** – Tomm-Bonde reported on a recent retreat on refining the PhD program. Honorary PhD handed out. Research with chocolate group and PhD writing group formed

   **Studies in Policy and Practice** – Munk reported Pamela Moss recently established a new research program and a new course on drug policy

   **Anthropology** – Gravel-Miguel reported the grad journal *PlatForum* recently published

   **French** – Fairweather reported the May conference is receiving a good response.

   **Physics & Astronomy** – Berghaus reported construction winding down. All is good.

   **Music** – music on Fridays continues. Distinguished Professor Award won by music Professor Harald Krebs. Musical explorations is looking for paper abstracts.

   **Biology** – Rietveld reported the new neuroscience program is online

   **Biochemistry & Microbiology** – McWhinnie reported a paper symposium coming up soon.

   **Hispanic & Italian Studies** – Kurier had nothing to report

   **Chemistry** – Davies reported there is a chair hiring ongoing and an upcoming poster session.

   **Electrical & Computer Engineering** – Lee reported they are having a problem with offices. Diversity program for Engineering, working on cultural diversity, confronting the male dominance of the field.

   **Sociology** – Stengel reported there is a quantitative instructor and chair hiring ongoing.

   **Germanic & Slavic Studies** – Severyn reported the department is bringing on a Slavic grad program. There will be a conference in February and the I Witness Program, visiting concentration camps in Europe.

   **Exercise Science Physical Health & Education** – Sulz reported the PhD program is now online (was special arrangements).

   **Community Development Program** – West reported there was an awards ceremony. There are growing pains with the online program.

   **Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies** – Logue reported they are currently replacing the departmental chair.

   **English** – Ellingwood reported there are changes to the one year Masters program. Working on a web page. Annual spring conference is coming.

   **Political Science** – Nicoll reported there are candidate talks for professor in Indigenous Studies. MA students have been struggling with the coop program – some progress being made – may not need to pay for...

   **History** – Burton-Vulovic reported the Qualicum Auction went great.

   **Greek & Roman Studies** – Romney reported the construction is over. Students are organizing March conference. There are concerns about travel funds – particularly archaeology students.
Psychology – Desjardins reports construction continues and is causing problems for therapeutic clinics and studies. Concern about grad student office space and the decisions about who gets what office. Also problems with the TA assignments – problems with transparency.

Child and Youth Care – Skobel reported there will be a conference in April.

Visual Arts – Trahan had nothing to report.

Pacific & Asian Studies – Cameron reported a group is organizing a teach-in about the recent MacLean’s article about Asian students.

Philosophy – Riddett reported there were problems sorting out representatives etc. is worked out. Putting together a continuity booklet for incoming reps. Concerns with program requirements and standing that appears to be inconsistent.

Law – Routh reported department grad funding for conferences has changed so that priority is given to those presenting and some funding will be available for those who did not get university funding

5. Executive Reports

Chairperson: Canning Referred to written report.
Director of Student Affairs: Ke Referred to written report.
Director of Communications: Canning referred to written report.
Director of Services: Graham reported the major events were: international student breakfast, Salmon Run, Pumpkin Carving, Party, Games nights, Wednesday Morning Coffee. Committee work: health and dental appeals, Senate Appeals Committee.
Director of Finance: Park reported he held a number of meetings with UVic admin, including an operational relations meeting and meetings with the Faculty of Graduate Studies regarding the calendar and travel grants. Sat on the health and dental appeals committee. Met with the auditors. Ongoing administrative work.

M/S Logue / Skobel
The 2010 Executive Reports are accepted as presented
CARRIED

6. Senators and Committee Representatives Reports

Gordon Ruby was elected this fall in a by-election. He has been in correspondence with the university regarding the learning and teaching committee, and was successful in getting appointed as a non-voting member. There has been no student caucus yet. Senate feels like a rubber-stamp, but he suspects that the real debates are in committees.

Adrienne noted that there may be an open spot for a Grad Student Senator due to McCluskey’s resignation.

Katoaka is newly appointed to the Mental Health Task Force. She is pleased to report that it appears to be a high-functioning group, and a pleasure to work with. The committee has boxes of materials about coping with mental health crises – representatives should let her know if their department is interested in receiving copies. There is interest in figuring out how the committee can target grad students. Feed back about this should be directed to Serena.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

7. Elections of Chair and Director of Communications

M/S Bakker/ Munk

That Frank Berghaus be accepted as Electoral Officer for the meeting.

Carried

7.1 Chair position:
Adrienne Canning stood unchallenged.

A number of questions were put to Canning.

Canning was ratified unanimously ratified by ballot.

M/S Skobel/ Ke

That the election results be ratified.

Carried

7.2 Director of Communications position

Canning offered a synopsis of the job.

The floor was opened to nominations. Matt Riddett, Jennifer Smith, Julia Munk were nominated.

Candidates offered brief summaries of their background and qualifications. A number of questions were put to the candidates.

Matt Riddett was elected by ballot.

M/S Berghaus/ Cameron

That the Director of Communications election results be ratified.

CARRIED

M/S Canning/ Routh

That the ballots for both elections be destroyed.

CARRIED

8. Academic Income Supplement feedback

A great deal of concern was expressed about AIS distribution policies. It was pointed out that each department sets policy around who gets what, with the only stipulation that the funding must involve “matching funds” from a T.A.-ship or R.A.-ship, according to the Grad Studies web site. It was put forward that this is not the case everywhere. The Chair asked for people to investigate and report back on their department’s next meeting.

9. Update on one year leave campaign

Park attended a FGS meeting about this last week. New policy is being floated by the Dean: students would not be able to take a leave if they are in a one year program. Even if you are only here for 3 terms, you would need to pay 5 terms. This particularly hits those who need to take leaves due to financial constraints (i.e. inadequate funding). This would not include maternity leave.

Park thanked those who rounded up support for this at the departmental level. Park asked people to talk this up in their departments. Park pointed out that the Council package has our legal position on this.

10. Supervisory incentives
Concern was brought forward by the Routh that supervisors have no incentives to take on grad students in terms of teaching load or leaves. This is having an impact on supervisor response time and students getting their degrees completed on time. It was pointed by Nicoll out that her experience with other schools suggests that where faculty are paid per student, some take on too much and the quality of supervision is diminished. We should focus on student rights, not faculty incentives.

In Pacific and Asian Studies, the department has budgets per student for faculty.

In Visual Arts, workload conflicts have created serious problems amongst the faculty and this was exacerbated by incentives being fought over. Not sure incentives are the way to go.

In Political Science, “incentives” are built into the system of distinctions.

In Greek and Roman studies, they have had the problem where there is only one potential supervisor for each speciality and one of them is not pulling his weight.

Riddett suggested that “incentive” should be understood as both a positive and a negative.

Tomm-Bonde suggests that we should not see “incentive” as necessarily meaning money.

Romney suggests that maybe the problem is evaluating our supervisors.

**M/S Riddett/Routh**
That a committee be struck to investigate strategies around supervisory responsibilities.
CARRIED

**Volunteers:** Frank Berghaus, Matt Trahan, Twila Bakker, Supriya Routh (or Jennifer Smith)

**11. CSPT Funding request**

Matt Park reported that CSPT students are seeking funding for their upcoming interdisciplinary conference. They are also appealing for monies from other sources. Currently, CSPT does not have access to departmental grant funding, because they are part of other disciplines. So, CSPT is making a direct appeal to Grad Council.

**M/S Skobel/ Cameron**

That $500 be allotted from the upcoming CSPT conference
CARRIED

**12. Revenue Canada part time/ full time designation**

Categorization around this status for the purposes of income tax has proved problematic for those grad students not registered in terms of course units as a full time through the entire semester, although UVIC considers them full time for the term. Revenue Canada has not accepted some people’s status in cases where they take a 1.5 unit course in May-June, and another 1.5 units July-Aug.

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**CLOSING ITEMS**

**13. Committee Vacancies**

The Chair read out the list of vacant committee spots.
Representatives were elected as follows:

VP Research search committee – no immediate volunteers

Associate Dean search committee (rep and alternate) – Tara Skobel and Serina Katatoka

Health and Dental Appeals committee – Cristal Sargent

Faculty of Social Science Equity and Diversity committee - no immediate volunteers

Faculty of Social Science Teaching and Research Awards committee - no immediate volunteers, but Gordon Ruby may be interested

Advisory Committee on Academic Accommodations – Julia Munk

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14. **Adjournment**

M/S Bakker/ Skobel  
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm  
CARRIED

dh/DH/SC

Minutes approved by:

[Signature]
Approved, Chair

[Signature]
Approved, Executive Director

Paperclips: 12  Staples: 16  other: 3