UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 4, 2012

Present: Dallas Hermanson, Colleen Clement, Pál Skar, Stacy Chappel

Guests: Michael Allen Neuman and Leanna (from SSD), and Jay

Regrets: Brian Pollick, Jon Potter

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am with Hermanson in the Chair.

TASKS ASSIGNED AT THE MEETING

TASK: Hermanson to add discussion of GSS role with advocate groups to the GSS Executive Board meeting Agenda.

TASK: Hermanson will add the Grad Fee Reductions Appeal Committee representative to the meeting agenda at the end of August.

TASK: Chappel to circulate a call for members at large for all student affairs committees seeking reps.

TASK: Chappel will send information from the previous board’s work on the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy to the Executive Board

TASK: Hermanson will send dates of consultations on Presidential hiring process to the Office Coordinator for promotion through the website and bulletin.

STANDING ITEMS

Hermanson noted that representatives from SSD would attend later in the meeting

AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as presented, with note that SSD would make a presentation.

MINUTES

M/S Clement/Potter

RESOLVED the minutes from the June 5 2012 and June 20, 2012 Executive Board meetings are approved with minor corrections.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Hermanson said he was still waiting for a draft of the CUPE letter.

Pollick was away so there was no report on language for representation to BOG.

Chappel said there was a briefing on BOG structure attached to the agenda.
Regarding working to ensure graduate student issues are included in political platforms in the BC election, Chappel noted she had arranged to meet with a friend who could advise on NDP platform development processes, but it had been rescheduled. She did have a general outline for the platform planning process, however, which indicated that most consultation would have taken place in 2011, but had spoken to other groups who had met with the NDP recently.

Skar wrote the Grad Council list serve for input on multi-year funding.

Chappel reported that the letter and photo from the Dean and the President had both arrived without further prompting.

**TASKS still outstanding or ongoing:**

**TASK:** Hermanson to send a copy of the CUPE draft letter to the Executive Board.
**TASK:** Chappel is to note dates for ongoing agenda items related to Action Plans
**TASK:** Pollick will draft language of a motion for the Graduate Representative Council September meeting regarding ensuring graduate representation on the BOG
**TASK:** Chappel to send information on past work on BOG representation to the Executive Board
**TASK:** Chappel to diarize a time for Pollick and Chappel to discuss BOG representation in August.
**TASK:** Chappel to organize a presentation on Smart Growth to the Executive Board from the Provost's office
**TASK:** Chappel to write the BC GSS groups regarding seeking a briefing meeting with the AVED minister as well as the AVED opposition critic.
**TASK:** Chappel to seek a meeting with the leader of the opposition and AVED opposition critic to promote the idea of graduate scholarships in their campaign policy proposals.
**TASK:** Skar to write the Grad Council list serve seeking input on the issue of multi-year funding.
**TASK:** Chappel to add item 4b to the Food and Beverage Committee meeting agenda.
**TASK:** Chappel was directed to review policy on tenancy in the dorms and prepare a detailed briefing for the Executive Board.

**COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATES**

Chappel asked that everyone review Clement's report as she thought it covered all the potential requirements for GRC reports — summary of issues, summery of meetings, and time spent by category rather than minute-by-minute.

It was agreed Clement's report would be used as the model for GRC reports. She noted the handbook is the big priority right now and the GSS is seeking an external contractor to manage the content updating within the template.

Clement referred to her written report.

Chappel referred to her written report. She noted June sales in the Grad House were up over 2011, the Liquor license renewal had been completed and Student Affairs is considering the concerns we raised, the Distance Education Management Committee of HSD has offered the GSS an ongoing invitation to their meetings.

**INTERNAL BUSINESS**

**PRESENTATION FROM SOCIETY FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY**

SSD representatives introduced themselves.

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Allen-Neuman reported SSD is a group led by students with disabilities, including graduate students. It is located in SUB B106, very close to the UVSS.

SSD formed one-and-a-half years ago. The group undertakes advocacy, but is different from other SUB advocacy groups as it has quite a bit of interaction with the university.

Current efforts including working on the BC Accessibility Act, lobbying the provincial government and opposition. They have just hired Leanna as a coordinator, and she will be the main contact with student unions.

Hermanson asked what the SSD would like from the GSS.

Allen-Neuman said support from the GSS with the university, such as attending meetings with the SSD reps, and helping students on a case by case basis would be what they sought.

Clement asked what the SSD does vs. the university’s Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) office.

Leanna said SSD is student run, and more advocate focused,

Allen-Neuman said SSD uses the social model to be more inclusive. He said often students feel lost when they arrive, and SSD can help them find their way, know policy, give referrals. He said SSD aims to reduce red tape at UVIC.

Chappel said key areas she saw the GSS working with advocate groups are
- getting help promoting relevant committees, and seeking SSD nominations for grad reps where appropriate.
Committee representatives send questions and reports to GRC, which is the best way to get a cross section of graduate student opinion.
- sharing an advocate role where appropriate, such as where graduate studies policy is a key feature of a concern.

Skar said he would like to formalize how the GSS works with advocate groups.

TASK: Hermanson to add discussion of GSS role with advocate groups to the GSS Executive Board meeting Agenda.

Chappel said GSS representatives sit on many committees, and can bring issues forward if SSD brings them to our attention. She noted committee reps are not accountable to the GSS, but the GSS does stay in contact with them.

Allen-Neuman said the SSD would like the Academic Accommodation and Accessibility Committee made into a Senate Committee.

Skar agreed that policy development, and understanding where to have input in its development, seems to be a huge issue.

Allen-Neuman said the university had a report in 2008—the Wolford report—which recommended improving policy. Allen-Neuman promised to send the report to the GSS.

Chappel asked what power the current committee has. Does it review items and make recommendations to any senate committee? She noted accessibility would be relevant within several Senate Committees (such as Learning and Teaching, Libraries, and Planning) as well as BOG
committees, so having a mechanism to submit items to these bodies, or have reps from these bodies on the Accessibility committee might be a powerful route.

Allen-Neuman also said the GSS website could add text size buttons, text to speech, and a high contrast option. He said the University of Washington WC3 standard is the best model for deciding how to do this.

Clement noted the GSS has just had a website re-design. She said we would need to discuss this with the designers.

Chappel said she had tried the site with the web-reading tool Allen-Neuman had emailed her, and this had worked for her.
Allen-Neuman said a final thing was that SSD—and other advocacy groups—were interested in having seats on Grad Council like they do at the UVSS.

Chappel they needed to understand the structure was very different from the UVSS. The GSS has department based representation, so there are already over 40 seats on the Grad Council. She said graduate students are organized within their departments, and have close contact with the reps. She noted a previous proposal to make such a change was rejected at graduate council. She also suggested graduate students within department and faculty councils could be a very powerful ally to any constituency group in terms of practical solutions and policy proposals from the ground up.

Skar noted the GSS is reviewing its structure currently. He thought an advisory body might also be possible. He is also sitting on the Advocacy Council of the UVSS, so can bring concerns through that council to the GSS.

Hermanson thanked the guests for taking the time to meet with the GSS.

[Allen-Neuman and Leanna left. Hermanson called for a five minute break]

The meeting was called to order again at 11:20 am.

HEALTH AND DENTAL APPEALS

Chappel noted there is an appeal to be heard, but since Pollick is away, she needs an alternate rep on a short term basis.

M/S Skar/Hermanson
RESOLVED that Clement is elected to the GSS Health and Dental Appeals Committee until Pollick returns July 19.
CARRIED

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

It was agreed Hermanson would attend the July 10 meeting of the Grad Fee Reduction Appeals Committee.

TASK: Hermanson will add the Grad Fee Reductions Appeal Committee representative to the meeting agenda at the end of August.

Chappel asked for clarification on roles in regards to relations with the UVSS.

Skar will attend Advocacy Council.
Hermanson has the role of managing any joint campaigns with the UVSS.

**TASK:** Chappel to circulate a call for members at large for all student affairs committees seeking reps.

**CUPE LETTER**

The CUPE letter was tabled.

**NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY**

**TASK:** Chappel will send information from the previous board's work on the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy to the Executive Board

**PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Hermanson noted he was sending a letter to graduate students as a rep of the president search committee.

**TASK:** Hermanson will send dates of consultations on Presidential hiring process to the Office Coordinator for promotion through the website and bulletin.

**GSS VIDEO**

Hermanson reported he had continued work on a video for the GSS, and asked to take photos of executive members if they were willing.

**VARIA**

**POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Hermanson advised the Executive Board that he was discussing forming a business partnership with Director of Finance, Brian Pollick. He wanted the Executive Board to be aware of this relationship in case it should become relevant to any future discussions or decisions of the Executive Board, and there was potential for a conflict of interest.

**ADJOURNMENT**

[The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am]

Sc/SC

Approved, Chair

Approved, Executive Director