GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm with Hermanson in the Chair

PRESENT:

John Buxcey, Exercise Science Physical Health & Education
David Monk, Curriculum & Instruction
Kaleigh Giles, Biochemistry & Microbiology
Chelsea Tirling, Health Information
Barbara West, Community Development
Misty Jackman, Germanic & Slavic Studies
Connie Sobsey, Biochemistry & Microbiology
Bernadette Perry, French
Chris Duffy, Mathematics & Statistics
Angel Chen, Psychology
Alisha Chicoine, Economics
Chiara Valsecchi, Chemistry
Dave Janssen, Earth & Ocean Science
Brendan Byrne, Earth & Ocean Science
Kevin Elliott, English
Tim Personn, English
Kaitlynn McQueston, Visual Arts

Sardar Ali, Computer Science
Ming Lei, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Mary Stocks, Social Work
Mark Zion, Law
Maral Sotoudehnia, Geography
Estelle Kurier, Hispanic & Italian Studies
Betty Poag, Nursing
Fatma Dogus, Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies

Dallas Hermanson, Chair (Curriculum & Instruction)
Colleen Clement, Director of Communications (Curriculum & Instruction)
Brian Pollick, Director of Finance (History in Art)
Pål Skar, Director of Student Affairs (Nursing)
Jon Potter, Director of Services (Business)
Stacy Chappel, Executive Director (ex officio)

WELCOMING REMARKS

Hermanson welcomed the graduate reps to the meeting. He thanked everyone for getting involved and taking on the role representing their department. Everyone on council is a grad student, and already busy so this is a significant commitment to make.

Hermanson introduced the Executive Board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Hermanson referred to the agenda that had been circulated.

M/S Hermanson/Duffy

RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Hermanson referred to the minutes from the January 24, 2012 meeting.

M/S Hermanson/Valsecci

RESOLVED the minutes from January 24, 2012 are approved

CARRIED

Notes from February (non quorate) were received for information.

INTRODUCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Hermanson introduced himself. He is a student in Curriculum and Instruction, and as Chair is the liaison with the university. He is spokesperson to the society, attends events and meets the members. Priorities for the year include developing GSS identity on campus as a unifying place for graduate students. Graduate students have excellent service and are advocated for effectively.

Director of Student Affairs: Skar said his portfolio includes advocacy for international students and distance students. He is the link between GSS and UVSS. He has been busy with the internationalization meetings and the new international commons. International Affairs is hiring.

Director of Finance: Pollick reported he is a PhD student in History in Art. As Director of Finance he is responsible for oversight of financial management, internal controls, budget preparation, and the society’s financial well being. The society is incredibly well managed, and it was a pleasure to come in to the role as there are no huge problems, the society is solvent. Goals for the year are risk management assessment.

Director of Communications: Clement reported she is a PhD student in Curriculum & Instruction. Her work at the GSS includes the handbook, website, calendar and media work. Her big priority is to connect the community to the research and get rid of the ivory tower. She has started a CFUV radio show called Beyond the Jargon, Mondays at 1, featuring graduate students speaking about their research. Getting great feedback! If you know of anyone who would like to be an interviewer, they can contact Clement gssdcomm@uvic.ca

Operations and Services Manager: Sistili introduced herself. She did a MA in Dispute Resolution. She manages the restaurant, handles catering and bookings. She also oversees the services and the building facilities. She notes she and Chappel are in the back office, room 115, and always accessible.

Hermanson said Michelle Zakrison is our Office Coordinator and Mary Shi our Health and Dental Coordinator.

He also noted John Potter is our Director of Services, but Potter will be here late due to a class that overlaps with the meeting.

Executive Director: Chappel introduced herself. As Executive Director her work includes supporting the governance and campaigns, managing staff, keeping records, and setting up financial protocols and controls. She is also completing her masters in Community Development.

Chappel gave a brief overview of grad council rules and methods, referring to the orientation manual included in the agenda.
**Psychology:** Chen reported the Psychology is having the welcome and orientation at this moment in the Grad House.

**Community Development:** West reported the first cohort is complete the first two years of coursework and is currently writing projects. There have been cutbacks over the last two years and there is 4% per year coming in the next two years in Public Admin. We had a residency in July. One group has the opportunity to go to India’s Participatory Research Institute. West thanked GSS for grant for dinner and social in the summer.

**Biochemistry & Microbiology:** Giles reported the department + a slow start this year, not much to report.

Sobsey reported the department had a welcome event and orientation and students are working on NSERC and CIHR applications.

**Exercise Science, Physical Health & Education:** Buxcey had nothing to report.

**Health Information:** Tirliing reported HSD faculty has a parade at Saturday’s UVIC 50th anniversary from 10 – 11 with a free BBQ afterwards. She is also Grad Rep with the Mental Health Task Force which is having an “out of the shadows into the sunshine” event. Oct 10, 11-2 in the SUB.

**French:** Perry said the department welcomed a new professor, Dr. Martin. Two students from Cameroon and another from China are in the program this year. In case anyone wishes to practice conversational French, Mondays 4:30 – 6 and Thurs 5:30 – 7 there is a get together Library 025.

**Chemistry:** Valsecchi reported that for the 50th anniversary this Saturday there is an open house in Chemistry dept with activities for kids and adults. Highlights include the very funny chemistry show. There is a big new instrument in the department.

**English:** Personn reported the students will have their first department meeting on Thursday.

Elliott said the meeting will kick start the department activities, electing all the committee chairs, etc. They have 70 students, and a record breaking number of SSHRC awards –15!! Fifty special books is our 50th anniversary celebration contribution with Gala event at Bookstore.

[Potter, Director of Services Arrived]

Hermanson welcomed Potter and asked him to give an introduction.

Potter said he is the Director of Services. He apologized for being late due to his class. He said he is excited about the coming year and the goal for the year is to manage the welcome, improve connections between students while here with social events, improving and increasing our relationships with alumni.

Hermanson returned to department reports.

**Law:** Zion said there is a speaker series Thurs and Fri. Tim Mitchell to talk about Carbon Democracy.

**Economics:** Chicoine said she is a new rep and there is not yet a lot to report.

**Computer Science:** Ali said he attended department meeting, where there was a big discussion of budget cuts. There is discussion that TA budget may be cut.
**Electrical & Computer Engineering**: Lei said they are all men in the department so he volunteered to come to the meeting so he can help them meet women.

[Laughter]

**Visual Arts**: McQueston said she is replacing the rep today, who cannot attend. Artist talk series wed at 8pm in the VIS ARTS building. The talk is by Susan McWilliams this week.

**Earth & Ocean Science**: Byrne thanked the GSS for the department grant. It was used for a hike and dinner welcome event for new grad students. On Saturday the department is having an open house in the Bob Wright centre. It will be fun. One of their professors is running for the Greens in Saanich! The department has offered a teaching position to someone, but the person is not yet named.

Janssen said another activity the department hosts is cafe scientifique, a community event with talks geared to general public. He will circulate information about upcoming events.

**Mathematics & Statistics**: Duffy reported the department is in middle of writing a policy on comprehensive exams for PhD which is more restrictive than the policy in the calendar.

**Curriculum & Instruction**: Monk said he is the new rep, and has nothing to report.

**Germanic & Slavic Studies**: Jackman reported the organizing for the Walking the War symposium is getting started. Culture, Language and Identity from 19th - 21st century is the focus. It is open to undergrads in honours program as well.

**Hispanic & Italian**: Kurier said there are two new grad students. It may seem small but for Hispanic & Italian it is a big increase on the 1 new student last year. Colloquium on October 26 and grad students are all invited. The theme is literature and resistance in the Hispanic and Italian world.

**Nursing**: Poag thanked the GSS for providing a grant that fed 50+ students at their orientation event.

**Social Work**: Stocks thanked the GSS for the grant to help the social work cohorts to meet. Their program is soon going entirely online. She is in the last on campus cohort.

**Psychology & Leadership Studies**: Dogus had nothing to report

**Geography**: Sotoudehnia said the department welcomed new professor, Dr. Springer. They are co-hosting an event with Biology Department – trivia night event tonight! The students went to Ahousat on a fieldtrip. The First department meeting will be on

FINANCE ORIENTATION

Pollick gave a brief overview of GSS finances, referring to a power point presentation.

Pollick noted that Brandy Sistili had done an excellent job managing the restaurant, which is very difficult to make affordable for students while protecting against losses.

Overall the society is in a solid financial situation, thanks to past boards and staf
GRAD COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Spots! These are not just for GRC representatives, re
Interested volunteers can email Stacy at gssmgr@uvic.ca

**Advocacy Committee**

Next task: Chappel and Skar to summarize findings, make recommendation.

**International Students**

Skar gave an overview new Director of OIA. Strategic planning is ongoing. He would like to plan for the GSS strategic plan on international student needs as international graduate student enrollment could double in size. International Commons and strategic planning at the Office of International Affairs are current concerns.

Lei, Dogus and Chen volunteered to work with the International Students committee.

**Distance students**

Access to services, technology, retention, GSS services, residency.

Poag volunteered to work with the Distance Students committee

**Grad Council structure**

Making sure everyone is represented, and department grants are fair.

Duffy and Sotoudehnia volunteered for the Grad Council structure committee

**Stipend Review Committees**

Duffy volunteered to sit on the Stipend Review committee again.

TASK: Chappel to circulate a call for committee volunteers

**M/S Stocks/West**

RESOLVED Terms of Reference for Stipend Review Committee are approved as presented.

CARRIED

**BC GSS CAMPAIGN**

Skar reported we have had two phone meetings with the other GSS graduate societies, and are building on work of previous GSS executives for a campaign for graduate student scholarship.

He said the students are hoping to work in collaboration with the Research Universities Presidents’ Council.

CUPE 4163

Tabled.
VACANT SEATS

One Card Committee – Giles said she was interested, and her previous school had one card, but she needs more information before volunteering.

*TASK Chappel to send more information on One Card Committee to Giles.*

NOTICES OF MOTION

Board of Governors representation

Pollick gave a brief explanation and circulated a draft policy. Board of Governors representation policy comes from the University Act, which does not stipulate whether any seats are designated for graduate students. UVIC does not designate the two seats, so they are often two undergraduates.

Simon Fraser University designates on Board of Governors seat as a graduate seat. There is nothing in the act which would prevent this.

Pollick asked that the reps review the policy and next meeting will ask for a mandate to proceed on this issue.

Consumer Price Index Policy

Chappel reported this item had been on the agenda for the February 2012 Grad Council meeting, but this meeting was non-quorate. Thus it was tabled to the fall. She asked the members of Grad Council to review the proposal and be prepared to discuss it at the November meeting.

Dean of Graduate Studies to attend

Hermanson reported the new Dean of Graduate Studies will attend the November Graduate Representative Council meeting.

PARKING LOT

Hermanson asked that the meeting revisit items that had arisen during the meeting and set aside.

TA policy

There was a brief discussion of concern about budgets for TA positions being reduced.

Comps policy

There was concern that comprehensive policies might be revised mid way through degrees, or are different for different students.

Chappel clarified that UVIC policy is that each doctoral student is given an explanation of the Comps process at the beginning of their degree, and this process is also on file with the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The process must be the same for all doctoral students in the same program.

Further, requirements are set at the beginning of your program, and the goal posts cannot be moved for students once they begin a program, whether for course requirements or comp exams.
ADJOURNMENT

M/S Janssen/Maral

RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.

CARRIED

Approved, Chair

Approved, Executive Director

sc/SC