The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm with Hermanson in the Chair

**PRESENT:**

- Alisha Chicoine, Economics
- Barbara West, Community Development
- Lisa Doetz, Business Administration
- Craig Harvey, Greek & Roman Studies
- Sara Sadavoy, Physics & Astronomy
- David Monk, Curriculum & Instruction
- Sarah-Louise Decrausaz, Anthropology
- Bernadette Perry, French
- Tim Noddings, History
- Angel Chen, Psychology
- Ming Lei, Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Audrey Steedman, Environmental Studies
- Estelle Kurier, Hispanic & Italian
- Mary Clare Kennedy, Social Dimensions of Health
- Betty Poag, Nursing
- Ryan Severny, Germanic & Slavic Studies
- Kathy Bishop, Theatre
- Jennifer Ault, Theatre
- Kaleigh Giles, Biochemistry & Microbiology
- Michael Carpenter, Political Science
- Chris Duffy, Mathematics & Statistics
- Brendan Byrne, Earth & Ocean Sciences
- Alesia Malec, Linguistics
- John Buxcey, Exercise Science, Physical Health & Education
- Maral Sotoudehnia, Geography
- Bernadette Perry, French
- Dallas Hermanson, Chair
- Brian Pollick, Director of Finance
- Pál Skar, Director of Student Affairs
- Jon Potter, Director of Services
- Stacy Chappel, Executive Director (ex-officio)

**REGRETS:**

- Colleen Clement, Director of Communications
- Chiara Valsecchi, Chemistry
- Mark Zion, Law
- David Christopher, History in Art

**TASKS ASSIGNED AT THE MEETING**

- **TASK:** Chappel to correct agenda to include Sara Sadavoy Physics & Astronomy to the invitation list
- **TASK:** Chappel to put Sadavoy in touch with Park re the Political Science variance.
- **TASK:** Chappel to circulate call for candidates for Faculty of Humanities representative.
- **TASK:** Chappel to post the finance presentation online.
OPENING ITEMS

Hermanson introduced Faculty of Graduate Studies Dean David Capson.

The Dean made a presentation on key issues for graduate studies at the University of Victoria.

Hermanson opened the floor to discussion and there was discussion.

Hermanson thanked the Dean for attending.

[Dean Capson left the meeting at 5:25 pm]

STANDING ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

M/S West/ Kennedy
RESOLVED the Agenda is approved as presented.
CARRIED

TASK: Chappel to correct agenda to include Sara Sadavoy Physics & Astronomy to the invitation list

MINUTES

M/S Harvey/Decrausaz
Minutes are approved
CARRIED

PRESENTATION

UNIVERSITY 101 - PRESENTATION

Hermanson introduced Becky Cory, University 101 Program Coordinator.

Cory gave a presentation on the University 101 program, where students with barriers to university access take introductory humanities and social science courses.

Large pool of graduate student TA's who facilitate small group discussions.

Seeking support for training costs for TA volunteers. This includes funding their meals to attend with the students, $650 per main academic term for three years.

Duffy asked about the types of topics
Cory explained the instructors select the topic, and usually choose the topic they are most passionate about. This gives the chance to explore an issue deeply.

Duffy asked if there are no topics from the sciences

Cory explained faculty funding and teaching support is from Social Sciences and Humanities, which is why this is the focus. There is interest, but it has not been solidified, would love to do this.

History – seeking funding for T.A. positions ... asked if this was for meals? Asked who provides the funding for the meals for the classes... it must be much more.

Cory says the donors and the Deans provide funds for that expense, as well as other grants. This covers the expense of the meals, bus tickets, childcare.

History was curious about

Cory said this was just not the case, if one volunteered as a TA one would see... The application process is rigorous, they really want to study. It is not that easy to get in, the time commitment is stressed to applicants. I don’t find the students come for the meals. Research shows the meal allows people to come because they don’t need to worry about the food, and also eating allows people to learn. The meal also is the community building time, students talk over the readings for the week.

Pollick noted they had asked for $650 twice in a year, or $1300 and he confirms that this is a do-able request.

Pollick said the Executive wholeheartedly recommends this, not only for the students, but also the grad student Tas who have teaching and facilitation experience.

M/S Pollick/Severyn
RESOLVED Council approves request of $650/ Fall and Spring semester; and
FURTHER RESOLVED the Council will include further donations to present to the budget

A member asked where the budget would come from.

Pollick said we are expecting a surplus this year, so it would come from the surplus, and for future years we would build it into the budget. It is not going to put any financial pressure on the GSS.

Pollick noted that if the council decided that there was something that needed funding, there are significant reserves. It is his job to let you know what the implications are.

History asked if it would be funded retroactively

CARRIED

Hermanson noted he had missed Business Arising from the Minutes
Chappel noted kudos to Law rep Mark Zion for recruiting law undergrads to help with the advocacy committee.

**EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

Chair: Hermanson said he acts as a liaison, attends several meetings, such as with AVPs and the President to ensure graduate students are not forgotten in discussion. Also attends GSS and UVIC events, tries to connect with current and new students.

Student Affairs: Skar reports that he is thrilled the multi-year funding issue seems to be getting traction, one of his key issues of the year. Now the goal will be getting the GSS imprint on that package. For the last two years, has been on the Appointment ctee for the Director of International Affairs. Announcement is pending on that hire. He made some progress on connections between GSS and Alumni, largely spearheaded by Jon Potter. Looking for points on where we can work together with the Alumni more. Skar apologized that the committees had not yet met.

Services: Potter reported from last meeting that he worked with the Convocation committee, and on the awards committee, which ensures awards meet intent and the goals of the new awards that are established. He also sat on the hiring committee for the GSS Events Coordinator events, and welcomed Chris Duffy to his new post. Potter said his second goal for the year is to ensure students have opportunities to connect. These events have all been going fairly smoothly. Have been working with alumni and career and co-op services around professional development and speaker services events.

Finance: Pollick reported that a lot of what he does is straight financial operations, look at all the bills when signing cheques, follow up with questions and review statements and financial position. The restaurant is a tone risk area--it is volatile, can lose money easily. Equally it can have a windfall because somebody has organized an event. As Director of Finance he is also responsible for labour relations. All staff except management are unionized and our collective agreement expired March 2012, so and we have dates set for bargaining in January. At Operational Relations, the GSS meets with the university and is discussing the form of our fee collection with the university to ensure the best practice in timely remittance of fees and process for accounting for the amounts accurately. We're making progress. They have agreed to a data run which will expose the facts and they have accepted the principle of GSS receiving timely funds. Sit on BC Student Aid Appeal Committee

Chappel noted Clement away, submitted written report.

Hermanson noted the reports will be posted online.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Electrical & Computer Engineering: Lei department not enough TA positions, competition is fierce for spots that exists. Every year so many in the department apply for TA but department is small and there are not enough positions. Other department might share TA positions. TA is important for experience after university.

Environmental Studies: Steedman had nothing to report

Psychology: Chen reported one faculty member is retiring and there is a chance in terms of grad advisor. There are problems finding TA position. Some students are talking about being sessional instructors, especially in summer, but the concern is they don't get paid enough for the workload.
History: Noddings reported the Qualicum Auction raised $3000 for the conference. Concern in department is office space as under threat of losing one of the two spaces allocated for grad students, already short. Some talk about conserving travel grants for the History department—research in other locations particularly a concern.

Physics & Astronomy: Sadavoy losing even more T.A.s this year due to the funding shortage. Dept has asked the students to sign a variance a change to seniority to cut guarantee from two to one TA and want to change the hiring priority. Wanted to ask whether other departments have variances, haven't signed anything yet, want to ensure it is done best way.

Pollick advised talking to the union, as all matters regarding TA contracts is managed by CUPE 4163.

Sadavoy said the union is doing the negotiations, and the students do have a say.

Pollick said the students in the department should make sure the ratification process is clear, make sure a member of the department is present in the discussion.

Chappel said Political Science has a variance and she can put Sadavoy in touch with the students in those departments.

**TASK: Chappel to put Sadavoy in touch with Park re the Political Science variance.**

Sadavoy mentioned they want a time limit on the variance, wanted to know if that was possible.

Chappel and Pollick said that was possible.

Anthropology: Decrausaz reported two faculty are retiring and may not be replaced. This would be an attempt to limit the impact on TA funding. The department chair’s term is ending. Non thesis MA option has been removed from the program, felt it was not in keeping with the research mandate of the university

Business Administration: Doetzel had nothing to report

Hispanic & Italian Studies: Kurirer reported there were no events or hiring, but some MA students who will be finishing are applying for PhDs, and may look elsewhere because it is not available at UVic except by special arrangement.

Geography: Sotoudehnia said the PECC trivia night is having round two tonight! The department is hiring a tenure track position with a background in remote sensing, and the Chair’s term is ending in July. First grad student symposium will be held December 6, 2:30 – pm in Cadboro Commons.

French: Perry had nothing to report.

Curriculum & Instruction: Monk reported everything is good.

Germanic & Slavic Studies: Severyn said their third symposium is coming and still open to submissions. Tomorrow at Legacy Gallery there is an event tomorrow at 7pm with speakers and authors discussion working with the Holocaust. Legacy Gallery at 7pm. Also concerns about funding issues and slow process for beginning PhD programs.

Economics: Chen reported recent dept meeting were talking about budget cut backs but hired sessionals and senior instructors. It is unclear whether the TA are protected and the priority is PhD and first year MA, want to look into protocol.
Social Dimensions of Health: Kennedy reported concerns in the department are similar to others: limited TA and lack of multi-year funding. As an interdisciplinary (INTD) program, they also have some difficulties with manual course registration.

Other INTD students in the room agreed about frustrations with manual paper work, especially in terms of acceptance delays.

Greek & Roman Studies: Harvey recently had first graduate student meeting, with GSS funds. Thanks to GSS staff for event support.

Nursing: Poag said she has returned to school after long time, first term a struggle to get used to!

Theatre: Bishop introduced Jennifer Ault who will be an Alternate Rep for Theatre. In the department they anticipate fully feeling 4% cut – theatre manager has retired and will not be replaced, for example. The Phoenix had an excellent run of Good Person of Sichuan. Monday at 5:45 there is a play and post show dialogue about Arts based research for those interested. The students goal is to bring in a professional to speak at the theatre with GSS department grant this year.

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Giles reported the department has seminars with professors speaking from neighbouring universities. Sadly last speaker had to cancel and is being rescheduled. The students just had movie and pizza night, with the movie selected by vote. Had a pub crawl (t-shirts! Glow sticks!). On a serious note, one of the TA positions may be cancelled, not confirmed yet depending on enrolment.

Political Science: Carpenter reported that one general a big concern is office space, and slashing of TA positions. Another big issue is transparency in sessional hiring. A number of students are trying to determine how the hiring is prioritized in terms of including graduate students.

Mathematics & Statistics: Duffy said Math has lots of T.A.s this term, and even hired not-math people (NMPs) for marking. Hired Phys COMP SCI etc... if you can mark first year math, you can apply next fall. No other updates.

Earth & Ocean Science: Byrne said the department had a successful defence, and the student came for a “Defender” at the Grad House. They were disappointed it was small! TA hours are being cut down. Change for PhDs now required to do a department seminar as part of your program.

Alessia LING: new faculty member starting this fall in INDIGENOUS STUDIES> Dean is retiring (?CHAIR?) at end of June. Had some presentations of research by MA and PhD students.

BUXCHEY EPHE: School good job on Movember – raised a fair sum! Like everyone concerned about funding for grad students and TA positions and doing some of the sport activity classes. With larger cohorts there is more pressure on the TA funding. Funding is lower, but the numbers apply in are higher.

HIST IN ART: Pollick reported Christopher had a class tonight, so he will report on his behalf: We have a new old Chair – Chair didn’t want reappointment, but was convinced to return, and pleased to say she is back (Harding). Like everyone else large cut in sessional budget in FAC FINA, affects PhD Students dramatically, won’t be spots avail. Will work its way down through the TA’s. Have 16th Annual Visual Impetus Jan 25 and 26. Call for papers goes out tomorrow -- it is open to anything that is visually oriented, all faculties are invited. Format: 20 min presentation, 10 min questions. Collecting articles for online journal (Articulate). Calling for papers — peer reviewed, valuable as an opportunity for graduate students to publish. Poster fair of first year MA’s on their intended research. The Fair will be held December 5 in FINA 12-1pm
GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATION ON THE BOG

Pollick referred to the written briefing. He noted he spoke to it previously as a notice of motion at the September meeting.

M/S Pollick/Buxcey

RESOLVED that the Graduate Representative Council of the Graduate Students’ Society (GSS), University of Victoria formally requests that the University’s Board of Governors designate one of its two student seats, as per section 19(1)(e) of the University Act, to be elected solely by the Graduate Students’ Society, thereby ensuring there will always be a graduate student representative on the Board of Governors. We request that this be implemented for the 2013/14 academic year. In support of this request, GSS has prepared and is submitting the attached Issue Paper, and would like to meet with the appropriate representatives of the University, at the earliest opportunity, to discuss this request and its implementation in detail.

CARRIED

FOOD BANK

Hermanson said he wanted a mandate to discuss grad student funding toward the food bank.

M/S Hermanson /Severyn

RESOLVED that the GSS accepts the principal that if its members are receiving service from the UVSS Food Bank, that it has a responsibility to help support this service financially; and
FRUTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Board has a mandate to negotiate a draft memorandum of agreement with the UVSS Food Bank, for final approval at the Grad Council.

Severyn noted his strong support for the motion.

A member asked if this motion would still require the Executive Board to return to the Graduate Representative Council to approve any donated amount or agreement.

Hermanson confirmed the motion gives the Executive Board a mandate to negotiate proposed terms, and the final decision would be decided by Graduate Representative Council.

CARRIED

TASK: Chappel to circulate call for candidates for Faculty of Humanities representative.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX POLICY

M/S Pollick/Potter

BIRT the GSS will update its policy to state that British Columbia’s Annual Average Index will be used to calculate the Consumer Price Index for membership fees and contracts.

CARRIED
FINANCE REPORT

Pollick asked the meeting for the will of the room, he would need 10 minutes to make his prepared presentation. He noted he has no motions for consideration and the GSS is in a good situation financially.

He said if the room preferred he could refer the members to a presentation posted on the GSS website.

The members agreed to forgo the presentation and review the online copy of the presentation.

**TASK: Chappel to post the presentation online.**

HEALTH AND DENTAL APPEALS

Pollick referred to the report submitted.

He noted the committee had made some changes to ensure continuity and fairness of decisions, and the guidelines for the appeals decisions are on the GSS website.

CLOSING ITEMS

Hermanson asked if there were any Notices of Motion (i.e. items for consideration at the next meeting). There were none.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Signed: Chair

Approved, Executive Director

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GSS Graduate Representative Council Minutes

November 27, 2012

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