
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

SPECIAL GENERATING MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2014, 4:00 PM
GRAD HOUSE RESTUARANT ROOM 114

Present:

Sebastien Lavoie, Physics & Astronomy
Janet Sit, Music
Ryan Butler, Sociology
Rhiannon Murphy, History
Cullen Kuntz, English
Caitilin Gilligan, Germanic & Slavic Studies
Constance Sobsey, Biochemistry & Microbiology
Jaclyn Gruenberger, English
Phuc Dang, Social Dimensions of Health
Estelle Kurier, Hispanic & Italian Studies
Caroline Winter, English
John Sheehan, Psychology
Elissa Whittington, Political Science
Kierstyn Butler, Child & Youth Care
David Huxtable, Sociology
Garrett Coles, Mathematics & Statistics
Christopher von Bommel, Mathematics & Statistics
Hart de Loi, History
Amanda McLaughlin, Neuroscience
Cory Shankman, Physics & Astronomy
Peter Bell, Economics
Darya Ismaila, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Hilary Cullen, Exercise Science, Physical Health & Education
Susan Kim, Political Science

Ryan Hatfield, Visual Arts
Madeline Holden, Pacific & Asian Studies
Alexander Kovalchuk, Political science
Regan Shrumm, Art History
Jill Harvey, Georaphy
Liam Coughlan, Greek & Roman Studies
Carla Osborne, Greek & Roman Studies
Zihan Shi, Curriculum & Instruction
Chris Duffy, Mathematics & Statistics
Claire Carolan, Theatre
Benjamin Lysens, Mechanical Engineering
Scott Stewart, French
Haike Lettrari, Environmental Studies
Katrina Flanders, Director of Services
Kendra MacFarlane, Director of Finance
Maral Sotoudehnia, Director of Student Affairs

Present, non-voting:

GSS Executive Director, ex officio: Stacy Chappel
GSS Office Coordinator, recorder: Matthew Park
Meeting chair: David Huxtable
Brandy Sistili, Operations and Services Manager
Cathy Storey, Project Manager, UVIC Facilities Manager

Regrets received: Ivan Watson, Director of Communication

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm with Huxtable in the Chair.

MEETING BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLVED the Agenda be approved as presented.

M/S Duffy/ Butler

CARRIED.

MOTION TO APPROVE SPENDING OF SOCIETY FUNDS AND BORROWING FOR RENOVATION

Huxtable gave a brief introduction to the meeting process, and noted that the GSS Bylaws require that any motion to allow the borrowing of funds requires 75% of members present to vote in favour. He asked the Executive Board to make their presentation on the proposal before proceeding to discussion of the motion.

Sotoudehnia introduced the members of the renovation committee.

Sistili provided an introductory history of how we got to this point, and to the reasons for considering the renovation.

Chappel provided an overview of the proposed renovation design.

MacFarlane provided an overview of the advice solicited from the UVSS, UVic, VanCity, and the Society's auditors.

Storey provided an explanation of the various reduced-cost alternatives proposed.

BIRT the entire renovation process under consideration be stopped.

M/S Kovalchuk/Kuntz

Shankman: renovations will eventually need to be done, and borrowing money for a renovation is sound financially.

Holden supported Shankman's suggestion.

McLaughlin suggested that members might benefit from seeing a more detailed breakdown of the various components of the renovation and their associated costs.

Osborne noted some renovations may be necessary for staff to do their jobs properly and supported McLaughlin's call for more detailed explanation of components and costs.

MOTION DEFEATED.

Huxtable thanked the presenters and the members for their comments. He moved to the motion submitted with notice for consideration at this meeting.

WHEREAS at the March 25, 2014 Semi-Annual General Meeting, the members of the GSS directed the Executive Board to proceed with an architect consultation on a proposal to upgrade the restaurant to create a coffee shop and upgrade the building doors; and

WHEREAS the GSS has received and estimate that this renovation will cost \$664,000; and

Whereas the GSS would need to spend a significant amount of its building reserve and borrow or raise funds in order to proceed; therefore

RESOLVED the members authorize the GSS Executive Board to proceed with renovations as proposed in the plan commissioned from Cascadia Architects; and

Further RESOLVED the Executive Board is authorized to borrow or raise funds, or spend Capital and Building Funds towards this purpose in accordance with GSS Bylaw 14.5.

M/S Shankman/ Coughlan

RESOLVED the motion be amended to strike "or" and replace it with "and" so the second reads as follows:

"Further RESOLVED the Executive Board is authorized to borrow or raise funds, ~~or~~ and spend Capital and Building Funds towards this purpose in accordance with GSS bylaw 14.5"

M/S Shankman/Cullen

CARRIED

Shankman supported the idea of providing two options for a referendum, provided that one option is "none of the above".

Shi supported Shankman's suggestion of a referendum including a lower-cost option.

RESOLVED the discussion will end at 6:15pm and a vote will be held at 6:30pm.

M/S Holden/Shi

CARRIED

McLaughlin asked if it would be possible to get a list of what each alternative includes.

RESOLVED to amend the motion to read as follows:

"RESOLVED the members authorise the GSS Executive Board to proceed with renovations based on those proposed in the plan commissioned from Cascadia Architects; and

Further RESOLVED the Executive Board is authorized to borrow or raise funds, and spend Capital and Building Funds towards this purpose in accordance with GSS Bylaw 14.5.; and

Further RESOLVED the Executive Board will develop an alternative lower cost plan in consultation with the graduate student body; and

Further RESOLVED the Executive Board will bring both proposals to referendum with a third option of "none of the above"."

M/S Shankman/Holden

CARRIED

CARRIED as AMENDED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

Approved, Chair

Approved, Executive Director

Mp/SC