University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society
Executive Board Minutes
July 14, 2015

PRESENT: KATRINA FLANDERS, Chair; Amanda McLAUGHLIN, Director of Communications; Alexander KOVALCHUK, Director of Finance; Elissa WHITTINGTON, Director of Student Affairs; Stacy CHAPPEL, Executive Director.

REGRETS: Hilary CULLEN, Director of Services.

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

TASKS ASSIGNED AT THE MEETING

TASK: WHITTINGTON will send changes to the June 18, 2015 Executive Board Minutes to CHAPPEL

TASK: SISTILI to complete the Industry Mail out subscription provided it meets the requirement of monthly email volume

TASK: FLANDERS to reach out to other GSS and UVSS to see if they are attending.

TASK: WHITTINGTON to follow up with UVSS regarding campaign for fall full-week reading break

TASK: KOVALCHUK to send WHITTINGTON info to date on the reading break issue from UVSS

TASK: FLANDERS to talk to UVIC AVP Student Affairs Jim DUNSDON about our election plans for screening debates.

STANDING ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Approved with the note that last two external requests may be decisions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Minutes for the June 18, 2015 Executive Board meeting were approved by consent with minor typographical changes.

TASK: WHITTINGTON will send changes to the June 18, 2015 Executive Board Minutes to CHAPPEL

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
CHAPPEL completed the Doodle poll on Grad Council meeting times

The Exec held the Strat Plan meeting

CHAPPEL brought the sample Action Plan to the Strat Plan meeting, but we did not get to it

CULLEN completed the Events Plan

SISTILI’s report for industry mail out is in the agenda for today
CHAPPEL circulated the Truth and reconciliation Commission recommendations, and further action was tabled to the FALL

CHAPPEL UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights was circulated but action TABLED to the FALL

INTERNAL BUSINESS

SENATE COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that Regan SHRUMM is appointed to sit on the Senate Committee on Libraries.

M/S WHITTINGTON/McLAUGHLIN

CARRIED

COMMITTEE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE AVP PLANNING

FLANDERS gave an outline of the expectations when serving on a senior academic hiring committee. She noted the meeting schedule is available, and the person elected will have to be available for every meeting.

Decision TABLED to the July 28 meeting

DESKTOP REPLACEMENT FOR HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN COORDINATOR

RESOLVED $980 is allocated from the Capital Fund for the purchase of a new desktop computer for Health and Dental Plan Coordinator

FURTHER RESOLVED $300 is allocated from the Capital Fund for a standard monitor to create an Executive Board workspace with the repurposed laptop from the Kitchen Manager.

M/S KOVALCHUK/WHITTINGTON

CARRIED

INDUSTRY MAIL OUT

McLAUGHLIN reported she met with SISTILI regarding the questions.

She said the mail out is customizable and can have sub-groups. It can be customized for groups who want HTML and plain text versions.

RESOLVED a subscription for Industry Mail out is purchased for use with the weekly email bulletin and GRC updates at the rate of $25/month provided the monthly fee includes email volume in accordance with our usage needs.

M/S WHITTINGTON/McLAUGHLIN

CARRIED

TASK: SISTILI to complete the Industry Mail out subscription provided it meets the requirement of monthly email volume.

PERSONNEL

The meeting went in camera for a report on the Events Coordinator hiring and collective bargaining.
RESOLVED Alexander KOVALCHUK is mandated to continue with the Collective Bargaining Process.

M/S WHITTINGTON/FLANDERS
CARRIED

EVENTS PLAN
FLANDERS referred to the Events Plan submitted by CULLEN
McLAUGHLIN requested a GRC meeting schedule for the year

[The meeting recessed for 5 minutes]

Grad Council Calendar for 2015-16

GRC
- Sept 29 (include orientation)
- Oct 13 (tent)
- Training day sometimes in October
- Nov 24
- Jan 26
- Feb 23

General Meetings
- AGM Oct 27
- SAGM March 29

Suggestions: Potential of including Elections Debates in the Grad House in the events calendar
- October 7 French debate
- October 8 English debate

EXTERNAL BUSINESS

STUDENT UNION DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT
FLANDERS reported the Student Union Development Summit at UBC has submitted their agenda for Session August 13-16.

It is $510 per person. Main activities are the 14th and 15th.

Decision TABLED to July 28 Meeting.

TASK: FLANDERS to reach out to other GSS and UVSS to see if they are attending.

SUPPORT UVSS LOBBY FOR FALL READING WEEK
KOVALCHUK reported the UVSS chair has developed a lobby to extend the fall reading week to a full week, promoted as a health issue.

What do they want us to do?
KOVALCHUK says they are requesting a formal endorsement, and that we ask our reps to advocate in favour when on UVIC Committees.
Where are they at in this lobby? Is it going to happen?

McLAUGHLIN is concerned that the extra course hours might be added to the end of the semester in order to ensure the full number of course hours. Marking usually extends a week following the last exam. Is it possible this would make things worse for TAs who must mark final exams?

KOVLCHUK said the UVSS floated a proposal to UVIC but it was not passed. He requested more information.

WHEREAS the university has recently developed mental health and wellness policy for both undergraduate and graduate students; and

WHEREAS some universities have full week reading weeks in both fall and spring terms to support student mental health; and

WHEREAS a midterm break for undergraduates could extend marking deadlines for graduate TAs and Faculty;

RESOLVED the GSS supports a review of the University Academic Important Dates schedule in order to assess whether it could be improved in keeping with the universities goals of supporting student mental health.

M/S KOVALCHUK/McLAUGHLIN

CARRIED

TASK: WHITTINGTON to follow up with UVSS regarding campaign for fall full-week reading break

TASK: KOVALCHUK to send WHITTINGTON info to date on the reading break issue from UVSS

JOINT GSS/UVSS GET OUT THE VOTE

UVIC Student Affairs is supporting the UVSS get out the vote campaign.

There is a debate planned regarding science as a federal election issue.

TASK: FLANDERS to talk to UVIC AVP Student Affairs Jim DUNSDON about our election plans for screening debates.

RESOLVED GSS endorses campaign to support getting out the vote and supporting the proposal for a debate on science and the federal election.

FURTHER RESOLVED the GSS logo can be used on the Get out the Vote campaign

M/S McLAUGHLIN/WHITTINGTON

CARRIED

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS

Communications: McLAUGHLIN reported the handbook content editing is complete. She asked that everyone review the Exec Photos on the share drive (deadline 48 hours for any photo vetoes). Cover photos are also online if you want to vote for any in the next 48 hours that is welcome. She is also writing a welcome from the GSS team. She will be writing it during coffee, and will welcome input. She attended the Strategic Planning working group. She met with Chris DUFFY regarding advertisements. Met with CHAPPEL re the handbook.
Student Affairs: WHITTINGTON reported she attended the strategic planning meeting. She has been in correspondence with a student regarding childcare needs. Working on the strategic plan priorities

Executive Director: CHAPPEL reported Org Dev, Bargaining, hiring, and three students cases. A little on the strategic plan. Libyan Student meeting.

Finance: KOVALCHUK – Bargaining, Org Dev, Finance Orientation, health Broker meeting, informal meetings with contacts regarding other student societies, Union-Student Associations solidarity meeting, Met with CHAPPEL and SISTILI regarding the restaurant history, met UVSS regarding items on agenda today. Catching up on the bylaws and training materials. Libyan Students

Chair: FLANDERS – chaired Organizational Development committee, attended Libyan Students meeting, met Jim DUNSDON, Decanal search committee, supported and represented GSS at the PRIDE crosswalk opening, Strategic Planning meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION
TABLED items – SUDS, COMMITTEE for AVP ACADEMIC PLANNING

IDEAS FEST 2016

LEGAL UPDATE re PRIVACY QUESTION and CONFIDENTIALLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS
None.

UPCOMING MEETINGS
Exec July 28
Org Dev July 29
GRC meeting Aug 4
Graduate Student Orientation Sept 4

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Approved, Chair
Approved, Executive Director

sc/kf/SC