Present:
Biochemistry & Microbiology: Dylan Evans
Biology: Cayla Naumann
Child & Youth Care: Scott Kouri
Community Development: Barbara West
Computer Science: Przemek Lach
Economics: Justin Tyndall
English: Sandra Friesen
Environmental Studies: Audrey Steedman
Germanic & Slavic Studies: Ryan Severyn
Geography: Jessica Blythe
Greek & Roman Studies: Craig Harvey
History: Nicholas Burton-Vulovic
Law: Michelle Zakrison
Mathematics & Statistics: Chris Duffy
Music: Iain Gillis
Pacific & Asian Studies: Daymon Macmillan

Physics & Astronomy: Frank Berghaus
Political Science: Georgina Nicoll
Hispanic & Italian Studies: Estelle Kurier
Theatre: Kathy Bishop

Chair: Julia Munk
Director of Services: Yanmin Xu
Director of Finance: Matthew Park
Director of Student Affairs: Fatma Dogus
Director of Communications: Michael Anthony

Executive Director (ex officio): Stacy Chappel

Members at large (non voting): Serena Kataoka
Matthew Riddett
David Huxtable

The meeting was called to order 5:03 pm with Munk in the Chair.

STANDING ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

M/S Bishop/Berghaus

RESOLVED the meeting agenda was approved

M/S amend Anthony/Park

Change website from demonstration to announcement

Amendment CARRIED

CARRIED as amended

GSS Graduate Representative Council

November 29, 2011 Minutes
APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

M/S Park/Berghaus

RESOLVED the minutes from the September 27, 2011 Graduate Representative Council meeting are approved as presented.

Zakrison, Pollick and Gillis noted corrections.

Minutes CARRIED with minor corrections

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising

EXEC REPORTS

Director of Finance: Park referred written report. He just finished restaurant bargaining process Friday, the agreement comes into effect Monday. Park felt it went well, compromise on both sides, everyone amenable to finding a solution that works well for everyone. Worth noting that based on the agreement, our labour cost will increase slightly, but not as much as initially projected, and will still have high hopes for all to be good this year.

Chair: referred to written report.

Director of Communications: Anthony referred to his written report.

Director of Services: Dogus referred to written report.

Zakrison thanked the executive for paragraph explaining roles in their reports.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE UPDATES

Distance Students Committee: Fatma reported the committee discussed distance students difficulties, and would like to take the concerns to the Dean of Graduate studies and ask for funding to help with travel.

M/S Dogus/Berghaus

RESOLVED the GSS calls for UVIC to establish a special bursary to assist with accommodation costs for distance students

Burton-Vulovic asked how much we would want.

Bishop said the motion sounds like action, not starting a discussion.

Burton-Volovic asked if it would be possible to ask whether this is necessary to attend in person?

Berghaus suggested this could be used to help students come back after going away for a few semesters? In Physics often required to spend a year or two out of the country. Can be daunting to find accommodations again returning.
Anthony reported the GSS has discussed setting up a dedicated grad student roomies website.

Zakrison asked why the need to come to campus arises for distance students.

Bishop said it is helpful to have an on campus component as distance students are studying on their own.

Kurier said the university may require an attendance component to confirm the student is who they say.

**Motion to amend**: Burton/West

RESOLVED the motion is amended to say

*the GSS starts discussions with UVIC Faculty of Graduate Studies about establishing a special bursary to assist with accommodation costs for distance students*

**M Amend the amendment**: Berghaus/Park

RESOLVED to further amend the motion to read:

*RESOLVED the GSS starts discussions with UVIC Faculty of Graduate Studies about establishing a special bursary to assist with accommodation costs for distance students and services for visiting long distance students.*

**Amendments carried.**

**MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**FOOD SECURITY REPORT**

Munk Referred to written reports.

Xu reported Thrifty Cards has a smile card fundraising program, for your purchases, 5% will go to the fund.

Anthony found that in order to raise $3,000 we would need to sell 33 students for all their groceries, or 60 students.

Zakrison asked to clarify whether this would be to help create funds for the food bank.

Anthony said the committee has several proposals: funding the food bank, or funding other programs. Other programs could be a community kitchen.

Zakrison said in the Food Security Report said there is an undergrad food bank rep.

Anthony reported there is a grad student who works at the food bank.

Chappel asked if people use Thrifty’s.

About half the grad reps said they do.

Nauman asked if you can load up card as you go.

Burton-Vulovic said he would prefer if the money went to a charitable cause, such as a bursary for students in need, not a community kitchen, which may attract students not needing the assistance as well.

Anthony said funds from the smile card have to go for emergency food solution, but it is undecided whether we would support the UVSS food bank or another system. The kitchen would be a different issue.
Nicoll said as a marketing strategy to use the cards having a clear set out idea of what the money is going for should be decided. She noted she thinks the community kitchen is a great idea, whether or not it is subsidized.

Chappel noted UVIC Student emergency bursary would be an option.

Anthony said we have had on campus food card donations offered by Student Services.

Kataoka said there may be grants available for community kitchens.

**ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

Dogus referred to the written report.

Chappel said the advocacy group volunteers are awesome and thanked them for their hard work.

**DEPARTMENT GRAD REPS**

Anthony said thanks to Yay Frank, Chris and Paul for their work on the committee!!

The committee has agreed on three principles:

- all students have equal access to representation
- should not exceed capacity of 60 persons
- department grants should be kept separate from rep structure

The committee is looking for reps and input from smaller departments!!!! Right now have three reps from large departments.

**POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Serena Kataoka, David Huxtable and Matthew Riddett from the Political Action Committee introduced themselves.

Kataoka said the committee emerged in a drunken meeting of political science grad students... They are concerned T.A.s don’t make much compared to other universities. Others make 38$/hr and have tuition waivers. She notes the T.A. wage affects her wage, even though she is not a union.

The committee would like to connect with students in other departments, have many political science and sociology and philosophy people.

The committee also started a draft poster ... copies have appeared around – but this was not a final committee poster, so please don’t circulate! This has caused some disagreements, so PAC wanted to come clarify with the GRC the PAC isn’t trying to cause problems for CUPE.

Looking at our incomes as related to the poverty line and as linked to cost of living in Victoria.

Goal of the committee is to provide information for people to understand graduate student income issues.

Berghaus, who sits on the CUPE executive as well as PAC says CUPE wants to share information, and they have info we can share.

Next meeting for the Committee: Tuesday 10:30 am at the GSS.
Huxtable said he was asked by president of CUPE to come and show some support to the PAC project. Huxtable said his work is in relations between union and social activist groups and this [confusion about the poster] is a classic case of culture clash! The CUPE 4163 executive had a good conversation and are on board with the campaign.

Riddett said he is not on CUPE’s executive but wants to facilitate getting the Political Action Committee more involved in GRC. Regarding Appendix 5 (request for funds for PAC) – Riddett asked the meeting to please table the request. Please considered for the next GRC meeting and go back to your departments, and talk to people in the departments.

He said his goal is to work with the committee and CUPE, but wants the Political Action Committee to tackle issues going beyond the union – such as BC grant program.

If we do get funding, we are committed to accountability – will attend and give reports to the GRC.

Berghaus said (as Physics rep) there has been a lot of discussion internally about these sort of issues, and there is a lot of support from Physics. There was income research done by physics students previously.

BIOLOGY A member asked if the PAC is open to everyone.

Serena said YES!

**Motion to TABLE Berghaus/Duffy**

*RESOLVED* the Political Action Committee funding request is tabled to the next GRC meeting, January 24, 2012.

**CARRIED**

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

**Community Development:** West had award ceremony – had first three awards!!! One for each stream (npo, coop, ced).

**Law:** Zakrison talked to food bank and got food services to donate food. Encouraged them to explore. Got huge bag of grain from food box. Encourage those ideas.

**Political Science:** Nicoll reported the PAC taking up time, other than that, Tuesday Talks. She will circulate a poster.

**Biology:** Naumann reported the department had a Biology Grad Students symposium, which was very successful! Same guy from best overall talk won again from last year! There were many good departmental speakers.

**Hispanic & Italian Studies:** Kurier said she has not much to report – they had their annual colloquium last month, one grad student participated, and was invited to present next year.

**Economics:** Tyndall reported the last department meeting included discussion about department wages – last year was planning to gut hours, getting rid of training hours. On supervisory issues, the faculty are now paired with students for supervision.

**Greek & Roman Studies:** Harvey had nothing new to report.

**Germanic & Slavic Studies:** Severyn reported tomorrow night and next there are public performances of a German play that is accessible despite being in German. He encouraged people to sign up for the i'll witness program. He went last year, witness Berlin Krakow and Vienna and primarily about research the holocaust. This
year its Prague, Warsaw and Krakow and Berlin. The department symposium will be on February 17, with many guest speakers coming.

**Computer Science:** Lach had nothing to report.

**Pacific & Asian Studies:** Macmillan reported there is a colloquium every other Monday. A difficulty regarding research assistant work, concerns about more work than could be handled, was resolved.

**English:** Friesen reported the grad advisory and student reps discussed the department’s plans to enlarge grad student cohort, are thinking of increasing the MA enrollment and this brought a lot of alarm. PhD is 4 per year, MA is 40 per year. The PhDs are feeling the strain on service and professional work expected to take on, and peer mentoring expected. Students put in a word about this concern... Generally speaking English graduate students have been overwhelmed by support from the faculty this year. Students have asked for support on key issues, and the department are taking the concerns seriously. Friesen said students are very grateful.

Kataoka asked what Friesen thought created this great atmosphere.

Friesen said students presented a platform officially to the department and specifically the grad advisory and professional development person, and thus they knew what our goals were. So far, the advisor in particular has responded to specific parts. Social events, comingling of faculty and grad students, and better events outside the classroom are things that have improved as a result.

**History:** Burton-Vulovic reported the Qualicum Auction held a few weeks ago, with support from the GSS. Thanks to GSS and Grad House! The event went well.

**Geography:** Blythe reported this is her first meeting and she has nothing new to report. The department is struggling with limited TA positions and increasing cohort size.

Our new member was welcomed!

**Math & Statistics:** Duffy reported one research group got a reminder that MA students would not be funded past 2nd year, PhD won’t be funded past 4th year. Some students off to conference this weekend (Canadian Math Society) some got travel grants ... some didn’t.

Reported the math students miss the old Grad House club sandwich.

**Biochemistry & Microbiology:** Evans reported this is her first meeting.

Welcome!

Bishop: Theatre: Woyzeck this Thurs and Friday – hybrid Germ and Theatre at Pheonix... if you have never seen a German play, you will be able to understand it. Half of our students are submitting

Ryan said secretary types them afterwards.

Environmental studies: Steedman reported recent grad profiled in Globe And Mail started Lead Now (Jamie Bigger).

**Physics & Astronomy:** Berghaus reported Physics spends minimum AIS of $200 per TA and RA minimum and the rest is pooled and allocated as scholarships, you may remember the student who took the ocean physics courses that don’t exist anymore. She is pretty happy with what has been arranged for her. And our Lansdowne speaker on dark matter was great. Every Wed 3:30 have lectures, ranging from awesome to more awesome.
Two recent graduations!! There as drinking but no political action committee was formed. As an odd aside we won't have enough T.A.s this is in part because a lot of grad students that feel the T.A. is not worth it.

Duffy asked what kind of work do they have.

Berghaus said there were positions for lab instructors, marking, ... would be good for anyone in hard sciences.

Park asked if departments were having concerns with anonymity during evaluations, as this was discussed at the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee. Several departments noted this concern was raised.

**TASK:** Park to inquire further about policy for anonymity.

On the AIS Nauman reported that Biology is not having concerns with AIS in terms of how it is divided.

Friese reported English used to be to TA's only, but as a sessional she has received AIS too.

**Philosophy:** Riddett said he is not the rep, but can report Philosophy have not come to agreement on the existence of an external world.

**Studies in Policy and Practice:** The department has a colloquium coming up.

**MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE**

Kataoka said the focus is on grad students this year. Perhaps thinking of a movie night, and some de-stressing activities. Outdoor therapy, skills building for managing stress. If there is interest, could start a group.

**CUPE 4163**

Berghaus reported CUPE 4163 is back into bargaining with the university now. Have a mandate from the government to give us nothing, but are trying to change their mind. Working with PAC.

**ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE**

Munk reported the committee is working on policy right now.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES**

Dogus referred to written report and said they are discussing providing more space for grad students, earliest by spring. Also international students, but don't know what to do specifically, will be surveying specifically.

Friesen said English biggest concern is to make grad student space distinct, so you don't have to boot grad students out of the space. Possibility that grad students share desks to combat waitlist problem.

**M/S Severyn/Nicoll**

*RESOLVED the GSS supports creation of exclusive graduate student study space in the library.*

**CARRIED**

**CAMPUS PLANNING**

Dogus referred to written report and reported appeal process has been the key discussion, but no decisions. Looking at whether the dean should have a time limit on responding to student appeal.
WEBSITE
Anthony reported he had scheduled a demonstration on how to join the grad school blog, but destroyed by modifying it too much it and am doing a test run and figuring out permissions ...

Should we make it public, broadcasting events, or should we make it more a campaign and discussion forum.

TASK: Anthony will send an email invitation giving password so grad reps can try out the page

The website is done, will have photo stream where people can upload images. If you have input over the holidays, please let him know.

STIPEND REVIEW COMMITTEE
Berghaus and Duffy volunteer for the committee! Hooray!

OTHER COMMITTEES
Matt Riddett elected to Health and Dental Appeal Committee

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

[Signatures]

Approved, Chair
Approved, Executive Director

Sc/SC