The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm with MARTIN in the Chair.

Present:

Anthropology: Luke Kernan (part) and Maya Cowan
Biochemistry & Microbiology: Teesha Baker
Biology: Malcolm Cowan
Economics: Tien-Yun Arielle Shih
English: David Eso
Environmental Studies: Tanya Tran
Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education: Stephen Luehr
French: Emma Kwasnica and Regina Grishko
Germanic and Slavic Studies: Tessa Coutu
Greek and Roman Studies: Lee Anderson
History: Carla Osborne
Mathematics and Statistics: Joseph Horan
Philosophy: Gennady McCracken

Physics and Astronomy: Maan Hani
Political Science: Ryan Broe and Stephanie Gruhlke
Social Dimensions of Health: Lindsay Shaw
Visual Arts: Marina DiMaio
Writing: Janet Munsil

Director of Communications: Danny Martin
Director of Finance: Olga Gould
Director of Student Affairs: Gillian Dornan
Director of Services: Jessica Wyatt
Executive Director: Stacy Chappell
Office Coordinator, Governance: Karen Potts

Regrets:

Chair: Susan Kim
Computer Science: Seth Greyllyn
Psychology: Myles Maillet
Biology: Lucianne Marshall
Social Work: Madeleine Harber

Absent:

Civil Engineering: Pejman Azarsa
Neuroscience: Chad Williams

STANDING ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED to approve the agenda.
M/S Dornan/Osbourne
Amendment: request to add a motion to add to committee member
M/S Maya Cowan/Gruhlke
Amendment CARRIED.
CARRIED. Agenda approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the 2017-09-26 GRC Minutes as presented.
M/S Horan/Eso
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

ASSIGNMENT OF TIMEKEEPER

It was suggested in the Strategic Plan that effort be made to involve more members in tasks that support the GSS and GRC. Having a timekeeper at committee meetings was one of the ideas. MCCracken volunteered for this meeting, and was thanked.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

MARTIN read Kim's written report to GRC. Highlights included:

- Appreciation for the new GRC and the interest in committees, from Councillors new and returning.
- Appeals and Bylaw & Policy Committees have already met and received training.
- The Welcome Back BBQ went over really well, and staff were incredible in helping with set up, logistics, and take down. Tickets were sold out. The outdoor patio-like space and the weather made for an excellent evening.
- The restaurant renovation is at the halfway mark. CHAPPEL will provide a full report.
- Last Thursday there was a GSS-hosted Town Hall soliciting graduate student feedback to go into UVic’s strategic planning input platform, ThoughtExchange. The most consistent concern is accessibility – including accessibility to learning and financial resources, housing, and the university’s decision-making processes.

MEETING BUSINESS

A. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Anthropology: Maya Cowan – issue to get grad students who are to be able to participate in roles designated for grad students.

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Teesha Baker – debriefing with students affected by environmental assessment, people are being pro-active.
Biology: Malcolm Cowan – questionnaire being developed in the department for grad students.

Environmental Studies: Tanya Tran – annual fall celebration on Thursday for grad students, developing rapport in faculty.

History: Carla Osborne – two new hires with a non-voting grad student on hiring committee.

Mathematics and Statistics: Joseph Horan – space constraints have meant some grad students are housed outside home building temporarily. New hire coming up. Problem filling Chair position so currently shared.

Physics and Astronomy: Maan Hani – process to change how internal awards are distributed.

Political Science: Stephanie Gruhlke – grad students meeting with new hire applicants.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION: RESOLVED to add Luke KERNAN to Communications Committee
M/S Maya COWAN/TRAN
CARRIED

A question was asked as to whether the GSS has a current representative on the Senate Committee on Libraries. CHAPPEL will confirm and report. [See Endnote #1]

Appeals: WYATT reported that the Committee members were trained and reviewed one appeal.

Bylaw and Policy: GENNADY reported that the committee met, discussed processes to keep members informed of upcoming changes, trends, referendum issues. Also looking at Code of Conduct for GRC reps.

Events: The new committee members and WYATT were not able to attend last meeting. BAKER reported that remaining members met to review past events and discuss those upcoming.

Communications: MARTIN reported that committee will meet for the first time next week.

Finance: GOULD reported that the first meeting of the committee will be next week.

Student Affairs: DORNAN reported that the committee will meet this week.

Stipend Review: HORAN reported that the committee will meet this week.

Humanities Council: OSBORNE reported that there may be more funding for grad students related to a new endowment.

C. STRATEGIC PLAN

Motion: BIRT the GRC accept the 2017-2018 Executive Board’s strategic plan as presented.
M/S ESO/WYATT
CARRIED
Discussion: Appreciation was expressed for the Executive’s decision to take advantage of the referendum completion and restaurant renovation nearing completion, to focus on finishing other current initiatives, and stabilizing and coalescing the GSS (versus immediately undertaking another major new initiative).

MARTIN encouraged everyone to continue reading, reflecting on the plan, and send in any comments, observations as they arise to any of the Executive.

See Strategic Plan for reference.

D. RENOVATION UPDATE

CHAPPEL reported on her recent meeting with the architect, manager and construction team. The project is half way through. There was one surprise of a rotten main beam that had to be replaced. No further large cost discoveries are expected. So far all monies spent have come from current funds. There has been no need to draw on the available loan as of yet.

It is anticipated that construction will be done by the end of November. Following will be inspections.

CHAPPEL also reported:

- the setting off of fire suppression equipment was a construction firm error with no cost to GSS for clean up;
- advice was received that inspectors might require GSS to repaint the kitchen and this might be most cost effectively done if completed during the current closure (Executive will look into this possibility and the cost); and,
- although the GSS had decided to delay looking into sound system improvements, the project manager became aware of good equipment being decommissioned elsewhere in UVic, and the equipment was obtained with no cost.

Anticipated opening will be January 2018. No new furniture but the function of the space, sound proofing etc. will be much improved. There will be a new branded café. Name announcement to be forthcoming.

The question was asked about the structural beam replacement being a cost for GSS when we do not own the building. CHAPPEL explained that GSS agreed to take on unanticipated costs when it proposed the renovation.

E. AUDITORS’ REPORT

GOULD reported that the auditors have found the GSS to be in good financial health. The auditors have made some pragmatic suggestions e.g. ensuring account names reflect account function.

The full auditors’ report will be the focus of the upcoming AGM. As soon as the report is finalized, a link to the GRC Connect drive will also be circulated to the GRC.
F. LISTENING CAMPAIGN

DORNAN reported that she and KIM attended the listening training provided by the Greater Victoria Acting Together group. DORNAN and KIM intend to pass this training on to GRC members with the idea to reach out and hear from more of our membership.

Handouts from the training are on the Connect drive link: See Handouts from Listening Campaign Training.

G. AD HOC LIBRARY FUNDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

ESO reminded the GRC of his report to the GRC on Sept 26th and referred members to the 2016-17 Ad Hoc Library Committee Report for full context and detailed recommendations. The committee has made the following recommendations to the GRC in its report.

1. Compose a letter addressed to University Board of Governors and Senate to support the library’s request for an increase in base funding;
2. Write the Federal Minister for Innovation, Science, and Economic Development and the Competition Bureau outlining the concerns raised in the report;
3. Foster relationships with libraries and librarians on campus;
4. Explore the concept of a national (centralized) repository for scholarly journals open to research institutions as well as the general public; and
5. Create opportunities to educate graduate students about the effects of and distinctions between vanity, restricted, open-access, and green open-access publishing.

It was clarified that all ad hoc committees of GRC end on August 31st each year. The GRC can assign tasks to individuals without constituting a committee. However, it was discussed that the last three recommendations were not simple tasks and might best be served by with a reconstituted committee.

Task: ESO and ANDERSON will draft two letters as per recommendations #1 and #2 of the 2016-17 Ad Hoc Committee and bring these back to GRC for review.

Task: ANDERSON will draft terms of reference for a 2017-18 ad hoc committee on libraries, for the purpose of fulfilling recommendations #3, #4, #5, and present these at the next GRC meeting.

BAKER and KERNAN expressed interest in the committee.

H. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - OCT 24TH, HSD A230, 5 PM

CHAPPEL encouraged everyone to attend the GSS AGM. Sign in and food will be available at 4:30 pm, meeting begins at 5 pm. It is anticipated to be two hours in length. Every graduate student has a vote. GRC members are encouraged to come, but reminded at the AGM each person represents themselves (vs. a department).
NOTICE OF MOTION ('BIKE RACK')

- Ad Hoc Mental Health Committee – DOR NAN – announced the intention to bring forward a request to establish such a committee
- Community Cabbage – ESO – this is a group that feeds people on campus with reclaimed food. Can attend Fridays before noon with own utensils and containers.
- Transit – OSBORNE – requested we return to the issue of transit’s plan to decrease service during the exam period.
- HANI – asked if we were participating in the request for input as to grad student’s experience with biking on campus. TRAN is on the committee for Campus Sustainability and confirmed there is a meeting coming up at the end of the month. MARTIN found that there is an online survey also asking for input. CHAPPEL suggested circulating this request for input to the Grad Council list and the GSS Facebook page. Emerging from this, MARTIN encouraged people to bring issues for follow up to CHAPPEL or KIM for inclusion in a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

M/S DOR NAN/TRAN

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Approved, MARTIN Acting Chair

Approved, Executive Director

KLP/sc

1/ Senate Library Committee: The GSS did not receive a request to fill this Senate Committee. The list of Senate Committees we are asked to fill changes each year, and this indicates a grad student senator has chosen to serve on this committee. In this case, graduate student Senator, Diana Popova, is the graduate student on the committee.

The full list of Senate Standing Committees with the membership and terms of reference can be found at: https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/senate/committees/index.php. GSS Exec members often serve as graduate student reps on these committees. This year, they are serving as follows:

- Academic Standards: Gillian Dorman
- Awards: Jess Wyatt
- Continuing Studies: Olga Gould
- Learning and Teaching: Danny Martin