The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm with KIM in the Chair, making the acknowledgment that the GSS convened on the traditional Coast Salish territories of the Lekwungen speaking peoples.

Present:

Anthropology: Maya Cowan
Biochemistry & Microbiology: Karen Lithgow
Biology: Malcolm Cowan and Lucianne Marshall
Community Development: Mike Butler (ONLINE)
CUPE 4163: Mitchell Haslehurst
Economics: Tien-Yun (Arielle) Shih
Education Curriculum and Instruction: Beth Tnustra
Educational Psychology & Leadership: Cortney Baldwin
English: David Eso
Environmental Studies: Tanya Tran
Greek and Roman Studies: Lee Anderson
History: Carla Osborne
Law: Nguzi Nwoko
Linguistics: Adar Anisman
Mathematics and Statistics: Joseph Horan
Mechanical Engineering: Markus Sommerfeld
Neuroscience: Chad Williams
Philosophy: Gannady McCracken
Physics and Astronomy: Maan Hani
Political Science: Ryan Broe and Stephanie Gruhlke
Social Dimensions of Health: Lindsay Shaw
Sociology: Renay Maurice

Guests:

Director of Student Advising: Susan Corner
Manager, Risk, Insurance & Continuity Planning: Ben McAllister
Greater Victoria Acting Together: Flossie Baker
Director of Student Health: Rob Crisp
Associate Director of International Student Services: Tricia Best

Chairs: Susan Kim
Director of Communications: Quirin Hohendorf
Director of Finance: Olga Gould
Director of Student Affairs: Gillian Dornan
Director of Services: Jessica Wyatt

Executive Director: Stacy Chappel
Office Coordinator, Governance: Karen L. Potts
Operations and Services Manager: Mike Ronning

Regrets:

Civil Engineering: Pejman Azarsa
Exercise Science, Physical & Health Educ: Stephen Luehr
Germanic and Slavic Studies: Tessa Coutu
Psychology: Myles Maillat
Social Work: Madeleine Harber
Visual Arts: Marina DiMaio
Writing: Janet Munsi

Absent:

Business Administration: Harleen Randhawa
Computer Science: Seth Greylyn
Electrical & Computer Engineering: Priyani Vanaparthi
French: Emma Kwasnica and Regina Grishko
Public Administration: Leila Bautista
STANDING ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*Motion: RESOLVED to approve the agenda.*

*M/S ESO/OSBORNE
CARRIED

MEETING BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION: TEMPORARY MANDATORY MEDICAL INSURANCE

**Director of Academic Advising: Susan Corner**

Ms. Corner introduced her accompanying guests, and presented on the process and status of UVic implementing a Temporary Mandatory Insurance protocol and program. Anticipated start date is Fall 2018.

*See: Temporary Mandatory Medical Insurance - UVic Process Presentation .pdf*

GRC members raised several questions, e.g. the need for interim coverage in the time period when a student visa expires, and before the new student visa is approved, as currently the student’s eligibility for MSP lapses during the wait period. Ms. Corner expressed appreciation of the questions that were raised and said she would be adding the issues for follow up discussion. Ms. Corner also emphasized referring international students to the International Student Centre’s advisors.

**CHAPPEL** added a reminder that in BC, no one is ever asked to pay up front for emergency medical care. All students should seek care when needed, and help is available from International Students Services afterward to negotiate coverage.

B. PRESENTATION: LISTENING CAMPAIGN

**Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT): Flossie Baker**

In response to the GSS considering joining GVAT, Ms. Baker presented on the current state of organizing for Victoria. She listed the current members of GVAT, and explained the two main organizing principles of this community development model:

1. Believes in the power of civic institutions — all of which are individually struggling to respond to immediate crises caused by market forces, gaps in government policy and services.
2. Believes in the power of relationships — bringing together organizations and groups, who, issue by issue may be unnatural allies, for the larger good. Bridging differences requires building citizen-to-citizen relationships.

GVAT is looking to build a coalition of at least 25 organizations in Greater Victoria to have impact.

Ms. Baker then led GRC members in small group exercises based in listening, building relationships, and moving toward common interests and actions.
From the exercise KIM collected key questions that each small group generated related to improving the
graduate student experience at UVic and beyond.

February 24th, 2018 is the next GVAT training.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion: BIRT that the minutes of the 2017-11-28 GRC Minutes and 2017-12-12 GRC Minutes be
approved as amended with minor corrections.

M/S GOULD/Maya COWAN
CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

To be discussed later in the meeting agenda.

E. ASSIGNMENT OF TIMEKEEPER

BROE volunteered.

F. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

KIM reported on general campus news, including:

- The provincial government has allocated UVic with funding to increase undergraduate engineering
  enrollment significantly, which can be expected to impact graduate engineering student enrollment
  and funding in the next few years.
- There is no movement on the BC graduate scholarship. UVic believes this is due to the government
  not realizing the complexity of implementation. The GSS has met with the University to ensure that
  our interests remain aligned on this front, and the University has been meeting with other BC
  universities to do the same.
- The incoming GSS Chair will be involved in the April Strategic Enrollment and Retention Committee
  meeting for the university’s Strategic Enrollment Management program; GRC will be vital to providing
  some institutional memory for the new Chair when they onboard in April.

KIM also reported GSS news, including:

- Side Project Coffee is now open, the restaurant will officially launch after reading week.
- There is a new website, a legacy of the previous Director of Communications. Please submit photos.
- A welcome to the new Director of Communications, Quirin Hohendorf.
• The Board’s long-term strategic planning is underway, which will be released by the end of this Board’s term. The hope is that the new Board will be able to look to it as a guide moving forward to foster long-term health and stability of the GSS.

• The year’s department grant money has been allocated. At least 31 projects were successfully funded for 2017-18.

• The Board signed onto the anti violence project’s Let’s Get Consensual campaign, with the hope to institutionalizing a violence-free and consent-based culture.

• The menstrual product drive was a success. The Period Posse, initiated by GRC councillor Lindsay Shaw, collected boxes of products, fundraised $15,000, and solicited $4000 worth of cash and products alone from DivaCups, a major manufacturer.

G. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Biology – Marshall – initiated a graduate student survey with 70% participation. Now analysing data.

CUPE 4163 – Haslehurst – midterm reviews done for TAs – some issues arising e.g. hours of work conflicting with academic program requirements.

Environmental Studies – Tran - Turpin A wing now open for Ecology students.

Math and Stats – Horan – working on department reviews. Hiring an algebraist.

Anthropology – Cowan - successful in connecting grad students with an exchange. Perception of department association with an individual from a climate-change denying organization has been raised as a concern.

History – Osborne – students transitioning from course work to thesis writing in second year seems to be more difficult this year.

English – Eso - three indigenous scholars have presented in competition for a department position. The Grad Committee in the department has had a practice of practice of overruling a supervisor’s acceptance or rejection of a graduate student’s proposal flagged for further discussion.

Physics and Astronomy – Hani – new research and ethics policy being developed. All grad council executive participated in an input survey, but no other grad students.

EPLS – Baldwin – audit just completed regarding inclusivity and diversity.

Sociology – Maurice – currently searching for a new Chair. Will be preferentially hiring a woman for next faculty as last 8 hires have been men. Currently, it is a difficult environment for women. Students are reaching out for support, external to the department. Maurice asked GRC councillors to share any best practice models for department student governance and participation.

Economics – Shih - contacts have changed and will be providing new names.
Political Science – Broe – incident of a PhD student co-teaching a course but not being paid at the sessional rate, due to unusual funding sources has been flagged, and CUPE 4163 is involved.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Affairs: DORAN reported that the Advocate Proposal draft is almost complete and will be asking for feedback. Committee is also developing a graduate student survey, and looking for good formats, questions.

Events: HORAN reported that skating was very successful. Events have been limited due to Grad House closure. Pancake breakfast will be at the beginning of March. Trying to also schedule trivia night, brewery/pub crawl.

Finance: GOULD reported that Finance Committee has been working on projections related to the Grad House reopening. GOULD encouraged all GRC reps to promote supporting the Grad House. More sales means more money and the ability of GSS to provide more services and events to grad students.

Bylaw and Policy: ANISMAN reported that work is ongoing regarding process and procedures for referenda, and a code of conduct.

Communications: MARSHALL reported that work is happening reviewing the new website, promoting the Grad House opening, doing a series on “Faces of UVic”, and also doing polls trying to engage more students.

WYATT asked for a straw poll to see how many GRC reps get direct emails from Grad Secretaries or departments related to GSS events. With many not receiving notices via their department emails, WYATT encouraged GRC reps to act as the conduit to get the notices and information flowing through departments.

Appeals: WYATT reported there were no appeals.

Open Floor: KIM asked for reports from GRC reps who participate on other UVic and GSS Committees.

Campus Planning: TRAN reported on Campus Planning. 5 year capital plan reviewed and major change is large east-west, north-south corridors, also looking at residence redevelopment onto Parking Lot #1, moving the 140 parking spots to somewhere else on campus. Health Services building is not up to ministry standards. Cycling plan also reviewed. Phase I complete.

Faculty of Graduate Studies Council: HORAN reported that there was a December meeting. The major presentation was on international tuition fees. Indication is that graduate students will have a reprieve, but not undergraduate students.

Stipend Review: HORAN reported that a decision was made that motions will not be brought forward to GRC for approval, unless the recommendation is to change the expected stipend.

FGS Data Plan: HANI reported that a large symposium was held with departments reporting on how high performance computing and data management is handled. More discussions to come.

GRC Committee Membership Changes:
Motion: BIRT Cortney BALDWIN be added to the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
M/S MARSHALL/BROE
CARRIED

Motion: BIRT Renay MAURICE be added to the Student Affairs Committee.
M/S ANISMAN/HOHENDORF
CARRIED

Motion: BIRT Ngozi NWOKO be added to the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
M/S TRAN/WILLIAMS
CARRIED

Motion tabled to assign TUINSTRA to a Committee.

It was noted to review Committee member numbers in a future meeting.

I. DECISION: LIBRARY COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP

In collaboration with the UVic Libraries, Councillors ANDERSON and ESO reported on their ongoing discussions and inquiry into library resourcing as it pertains to graduate student work. ANDERSON and ESO requested support to continue their work on library funding as it pertains to the public accessibility of graduate research by establishing an open-access graduate-featuring journal.

Councillors provided feedback on the idea of creating a peer-reviewed open access journal in collaboration with UVic libraries. Many GRC reps reported on their own department based journals.

Motion: BIRT until the end of the 2017-2018 GRC term, the GSS ratify David Eso and Lee Anderson as its representatives in approaching UVic Libraries for collaboration on projects that would promote graduate student work and the value of open-access publishing.
M/S MAURICE/GRULKE
CARRIED

Discussion: It was clarified that no ANDERSON and ESO are not committed to one model or another to promote open-access. The motion is to send two representatives to discuss collaboration.

Motion: BIRT the GRC meeting time is extended to 7:15 pm.
M/S ESO/WILLIAMS
CARRIED
KIM referred Councillors to a draft letter, written with feedback from Grad Council, by ANDERSON and ESO. **Reference [link]:** Letter to Board of Governors

**Motion:** BIRT, pending minor revisions, the GSS submit the letter written by ANDERSON to the UVic Board of Governors expressing graduate student concerns about library funding and thoughts in favour of open-access research.

**M/S** HANI/TRAN

**CARRIED. UNANIMOUS.**

J. GSS ELECTION NOTICE

The GSS Electoral Officer is Adar ANISMAN.

Nominations for all Board of Directors positions will be open February 5th, 2018. There are no returning current executive members. Positions available: are: Chair, Director of Finance, Director of Services, Director of Student Affairs, and Director of Communications.

Nomination packages and information will be available at [http://gss.uvic.ca/election](http://gss.uvic.ca/election) or at the GSS office. The GSS Office also has nomination packages for graduate student representative candidates to the UVic Board of Governors and Senate.

A reminder that Stipend Review and Electoral committee members are not eligible to run in GSS Elections.

Voting will be online from 9 AM February 28 to 4:30 PM March 2, 2018.

The GSS is working on a potential dates/times for current Executive Board members to be available to answer questions from interested members via email or in-person.

MAURICE announced that on Feb. 20th Sociology students are hosting a forum and would like to invite exiting directors to attend to recruit potential nominees, as well as candidates that are running.

KIM encouraged all current GRC representatives to consider running, as well as encouraging other graduate students to apply, and to consider building a team of diverse people who might work well together.

K. RENOVATION UPDATE

Side Project Coffee opened on Monday January 29th and will also be open on Saturdays. Grad students are still welcome to hang out in the area without purchase. Microwave and water available.

Grad House Restaurant soft opening will be the week of February 5th. This is not advertised. This is the chance for the staff to test recipes and service. The restaurant reserves the right to close without notice if adjustments need to be made.

Grad House restaurant will be closed during reading week.

Official grand opening, with the UVic President in attendance for ribbon cutting, is February 14, 10:30-11:30 AM; cake will be provided. Please submit any dietary restrictions. Café will be open.
Hard launch of the Grad House Restaurant will be after reading week.

Motion: BIRT the GRC meeting time is further extended.

M/S WILLIAMS/HORAN  
CARRIED

GOULD provided an update on the financing of the renovation project. This included the total project budget, what the project funding plan, what GSS total funds expended to date, what has been borrowed.

- Approved total project budget: $820,851, including $40,970 paid during project development.
- Project funding plan included:
  - GSS investment, incl. $40,970 from prev. years: 622,141.39
  - Vancity loan: 200,000 (+100,000 avail contingency)
  - UVIC donation: 50,000
- Total GSS Funds spent since start of project: $608,607.60
- Borrowed to date: $150,000
- Anticipated that the project will be completed on budget.

CLOSING ITEMS

BIKE RACK
- Standing GRC-NSU Seat
- TRC Workshop
- Long-Term Strategic Plan

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS
- Grad House Restaurant Ribbon Cutting, Halpern Centre, February 14, 10:30 AM
- February GRC, Halpern Centre, February 27.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

M/S HASLEHURST/MCCRACKEN  
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

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Approved, Chair  
Approved, Executive Director