University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
Graduate Representative Council
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2018, 5-7 PM

Council Members Attending:

Anthropology: Maya Cowan
Art History & Visual Studies: Anahita Ranjbär
Biochemistry & Microbiology: Jacob Imbery
Computer Science: Olga Gould
Earth & Ocean Sciences: Christiaan Laureijis
Economics: Ryley Erickson
Education Curriculum & Instruction: Meaghan Storey
Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies: Theresa Wanninger
Electrical & Computer Engineering: Muniyat Rafa
Environmental Studies: Tanya Tran
French: Ryleigh Lightbourn
Germanic & Slavic Studies: Lauren Thompson
Greek & Roman Studies: Jo Roy
Hispanic & Italian Studies: Tobi Panter (ONLINE)
History: Sydney Fuhrman
Mathematics & Statistics: Joseph Horan
Neuroscience: Chad Williams
Physics & Astronomy: Maan Hani
Psychology: Tom Ferguson
Theatre: Jemma Llewellyn
CUPE 4163: Mitchell Haslehurst

GSS Executive and Staff:

Chair: Arash Isapour
Director of Communications: Kelly Clark
Director of Finance: Carla Osborne
Director of Student Affairs: Esmaeil Rahimi

Director of Services: Mahsa Mahtab
Executive Director: Stacy Chappel
Office Coordinator, Governance: Karen L. Potts

Guest:
Myles Maillet, 2017-18 Student Affairs Committee Member

Absent:
Civil Engineering: Kamran Tayyebi
Political Science: Franziska Fischer

Council Vacancies as of Sept 25, 2018:
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Child & Youth Care
Community Development
Cultural Heritage Management
English
Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education
Geography
Health Information Science
Indigenous Education
Indigenous Governance
Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
Law
Linguistics
Mechanical Engineering
School of Music
Nursing
Pacific & Asian Studies
Philosophy
Public Administration
Public Health & Social Policy
Social Dimensions of Health
Social Work
Sociology
Visual Arts
Writing

DINNER AND NETWORKING - 4:30 PM
CALL TO ORDER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ISAPOUR called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, with the following statement:

We acknowledge and respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the Graduate Students’ Society exists, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose relationships with the land continue to this day.

ISAPOUR also shared his personal experience in learning about the indigenous people and traditional indigenous land issues in Canada. He invited all GRC members to take turns in future GRC meetings to contribute their personal experiences and understandings as part of the GRC land acknowledgement.

STANDING ITEMS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented, with corrections as noted.
M/S COWAN/CLARK

Discussion: HORAN commented that the communication about the use of the informal/formal time before the meeting was unclear and time for individual introductions would have been appreciated.

Germanic and Slavic Studies, and Studies in Earth and Ocean Science now have representatives.

The representative for Hispanic and Italian Studies is present online.

CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: RESOLVED that the July 24, 2018 Grad Council meeting minutes are approved with minor corrections as provided.
M/S RAHIMI/HORAN

Discussion: HORAN noted the full name of his department should read as “Mathematics and Statistics”.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

ASSIGNMENT OF TIMEKEEPER

TRAN and COWAN volunteered to act as a timekeepers.
NEW BUSINESS

A. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

ISAPOUR welcomed everyone to the new 2018-19 GRC year. On behalf of the Executive Board ISAPOUR emphasized that the amount and quality of work that the GRC can accomplish is dependent on the individuals making up the Council.

ISAPOUR affirmed the two main goals for the GRC this year:

1. Securing the status of research assistants who have been left without protection and support when their official employer is an individual faculty member, and not the university.
2. Establishing a student advocate position, in collaboration with UVSS.

ISAPOUR also reminded GRC members that the GSS exists as a society, not part of the university, and as such consists of the support and help graduate students as members provide to each other.

B. ORIENTATION TO THE GRC

CHAPPEL presented a brief overview of the GSS, its history, accomplishments and current work for graduate students, as well as the differences between the GSS Executive and the GRC Council. GRC members were encouraged to familiarize themselves with governing legislation, GSS governing documents, and the culture/working norms of the GRC.

Slides presented in this Orientation will be posted on the GRC Connect site.

C. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

1. GRC Standing Committees

CHAPPEL explained the requirement of each GRC member to sit on at least one GRC standing, service committee. ISAPOUR circulated a Committee preference form and requested members to indicate their choices.

MAHTAB emphasized that for anyone interested in the Appeals Committee, they must be able to attend the Oct. 9 training session. MAHTAB also emphasized that Events Committee members must also have the time to host/participate in events, and that the first meeting will be re-scheduled and not on Oct. 2.

The Committee preferences of the GRC members in attendance were collected, summarized by staff, and presented back with each GRC member assigned to one or more standing committees. With the committee assignments being acceptable to members, the following motion was made:

MOTION: RESOLVED that GRC members are appointed to the GRC standing committees for the 2018-19 term as follows:

   Appeals: Muniyot Rafa, Tanya Tran, Maan Hani
   Bylaw and Policy: Maya Cowan/Anu Lotay, Jo Roy
   Communications: Anahita Ranjbar, Jacob Imbery, Lauren Thompson
2. UVic Sexualized Violence Education and Awareness Committee Representative

Cowan and Gould nominated themselves. Each candidate spoke, introducing themselves and their interest in the topic. Gould spoke about her work with the Engineering and Computer Science departments. Cowan spoke about her experience as an undergraduate student and living in residence, as well as being a graduate student and the incongruities behind the UVic public statements and student experiences.

A secret ballot vote was held. The results were a tied vote.

Rather than flip a coin, the candidates requested that Gould be the official representative and Cowan be designated as the alternate.

MOTION: RESOLVED that Olga Gould (Maya Cowan, Alternate) are appointed to the UVic Sexualized Violence Education and Awareness Committee.

M/S Williams/Tran
CARRIED

3. UVic External Committees

The Humanities Faculty requested a graduate student representative for the Associate Dean of Humanities, Research, Appointment Committee, as well as for the 2018-19 Humanities Faculty Council. The GSS circulated notices to eligible members and one member formally applied for each position.

MOTION: RESOLVED is that Sean Oliver is elected as the graduate student representative to the Associate Dean of Humanities, Research, Appointment Committee.

M/S Clark/Hani
CARRIED

MOTION: RESOLVED that Jo Roy be elected as the graduate student representative to the 2018-19 Humanities Faculty Council.

M/S Tran/Gold
CARRIED (Roy abstained from the vote.)
D. STUDENT AFFAIRS SURVEY FINAL REPORT PRESENTATION

Myles MAILLET, 2017-18 Student Affairs Committee Member, presented the final report on the results of the Student Affairs Graduate Student Survey. Reference doc: GSS Survey Report v2.0 in GRC Connect Site.

Discussion: GRC members agreed on the importance to both protect the confidentiality promised to the survey respondents, at the same time ensuring the results were quickly distributed to the decision making bodies who could address the critical issues raised.

Discussion: can GRC members then share this interpretive analysis with their departments and to a wider audience? GRC has a responsibility to the wider student body to get these results out. Would like to see the GRC make data informed decisions to get the data to relevant bodies.

MOTION: RESOLVED that GRC directs Student Affairs Committee to do an interpretive analysis to be presented in a private meeting with the UVic President and senior administration.
M/S HORAN/GOULD
CARRIED

MOTION: RESOLVED that GRC directs Students Affairs Committee and Communications Committee to develop a press release that will include results of the survey to be released publically.
M/S HORAN/RAHIMI
CARRIED

MOTION: RESOLVED that the GRC directs the Student Affairs Committee (with support from other committees as appropriate) to review the results presented today, strip away unneeded interpreted information, and make the amended results available to relevant decision making bodies and members at large.
M/S HANI/WILLIAMS
CARRIED

CLOSING ITEMS

IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming GSS Deadlines:
Health and Dental Plan opt in/Opt out deadline: September 30

Upcoming GSS Events:
Welcome Back Barbecue: September 27
Colouring and Cocoa: October 11

Next GRC Meeting:
October 16, 2018, 5 pm Dean Capson will be in attendance.
NOTICES OF MOTION

GRC Election process: motion to refer to Bylaw & Policy Committee a review of GRC elections and have the committee develop some proposed updates for submission to GRC.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.
M/S: HANI/HASLEHURST
CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Approved, Chair

Approved, Executive Director

KLP/jh