

*University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society*

## Graduate Representative Council

### MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 16, 2018, 5-7 PM

#### **Council Members Attending:**

**Anthropology:** Anu Lotay

**Biochemistry & Microbiology:** Jay Joshi

**Biology:** Keyrian Le Gratiet

**Computer Science:** Olga Gould

**Earth & Ocean Sciences:** Christiaan Laureijs

**Economics:** Ryley Erickson

**Education Curriculum & Instruction:** Meaghan Storey

**Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies:** Theresa Wanninger

**English:** Janice Niemann

**Environmental Studies:** Tanya Tran

**French:** Ryleigh Lightbourn

**Germanic & Slavic Studies:** Lauren Thompson, Jae Hyun Kim

**History:** Sydney Fuhrman

**Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs:** Anthony Gavin

**Law:** Chinwendu Nwanisobi

**Mathematics & Statistics:** Joseph Horan

**Neuroscience:** Chad Williams

**Physics & Astronomy:** Maan Hani

**Political Science:** Franziska Fischer

**Psychology:** Tom Ferguson

**Public Health & Social Policy:** Anabelle Bernard Fournier

**Social Determinants of Health:** Matty Cervantes

**Social Work:** Sarah Krahn

**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:** Esmail Rahimi

**Director of Services:** Mahsa Mahtab

**Executive Director:** Stacy Chappel

**Office Coordinator, Governance:** Karen L. Potts

#### **Guests:**

**Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dean,** David Capson

**Theatre Studies,** Devon Goldie

#### **Absent:**

**Art History & Visual Studies:** Anahita Ranjbar

**Civil Engineering:** Kamran Tayyebi

**Electrical & Computer Engineering:** Muniyat Rafa

#### DINNER AND NETWORKING

The Director of Student Affairs invited GRC reps for an introductory session to Roberts Rules of Order, why these procedural rules are followed in GSS, and how to use them for effective discussion. RAHIMI's notes from this session are available for GRC Members in the [GRC Getting Started Info and Orientation](#) folder on the GRC Connect site.

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## CALL TO ORDER

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### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ISAPOUR called the meeting to order at 5 pm, making the following land acknowledgement:

*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.*

Council members were asked to volunteer to provide a personal statement of land acknowledgement.

HORAN offered a personal reflection.

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## UPDATE FROM THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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Guest, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, David Capson provided an update since his last visit to the GSS GRC in 2017. Slides from his presentation can be found on the GRC Connect: [Dean Capson's Presentation to the GSS GRC - Oct 16 2018](#).

Dean Capson emphasised that:

- the Faculty of Graduate Studies Dean and Associate Deans are available to be a confidential resource to both graduate students and faculty;
- that the Faculty of Graduate Studies will be working with faculty deans to address funding concerns; and,
- that the focus of the Faculty of Graduate Studies is to ensure stability and security for all graduate students to be successful and complete their programs.

A short question and answer session was held after Dean's Capson's formal presentation.

Areas of concern from GRC members included:

- Is FGS taking into account the real completion time for different academic units, particular non-STEM departments? Capson stated a priority of his is to improved completion times. To recognize real completion times, FGS will use 5 years and 3 years as standard completion times (instead of 4 years and 2 years). Dean Capson believes UVic in general has students with longer completion times due to high living, housing costs and students participating in program options such as co-op terms.
- How will faculties with larger graduate enrollment fair in the new funding allocation? Capson stated that faculties with research based programs will fair very well.
- Will there be information about, and training regarding applying, for funding opportunities? Capson emphasized that there are coaching workshops for students applying Tri-Council awards. Department graduate student handbooks should make the departmental opportunities clear. However, Capson recognized the need to find better ways to get information out about specific donor awards.

ISAPOUR closed the session thanking Dean Capson and suggested that if GRC wishes for further discussion, time could be scheduled in a subsequent GRC meeting.

## STANDING ITEMS

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### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*Motion: RESOLVED to approve the agenda.*

M/S HANI/CLARK

CARRIED

COMMENTS: time stamps are requested for all agenda items.

### CHAIR'S REMARKS

The 2017-18 GRC EPLS rep, Courtney Baldwin, for is facilitating a GVAT workshop October 20<sup>th</sup>. GSS joined GVAT as a member last year, therefore all of our members have free access to workshops and meetings. ISAPOUR encouraged members to consider attending the GVAT training, and will send out more information over the Grad Council listserv.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

*Motion: RESOLVED to approve the GRC Minutes of September 25, 2018.*

M/S MAHTAB/CLARK

CARRIED

### BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

HORAN asked about the progress made by the Executive Board on the April GRC motion to do a FOI request into UVic's international tuition fee increases. ISAPOUR responded that it was difficult to get a meeting with the UVic VP Finance. ISAPOUR believes there is now more information on how tuition money is used for scholarships, support etc. on the UVic webpage.

## NEW BUSINESS

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### AGM PROMOTION

All GRC members were encouraged to attend, and to promote the GSS AGM on October 23.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS: GRC AND UVIC

Appeals Committee: Training for Appeals Committee members will be October 23.

Events Committee: Please come to the GSS Events to help build community and support. The event list for this semester is in the GSS Office, on the Grad Centre bulletin board, and available on the GSS website.

Bylaw and Policy: No report.

Communications: Meeting postponed until October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Finance: Orientation was held for one new member. A follow up meeting will be held.

Student Affairs: The Committee met and did the review of the Student Survey as requested by the GRC.

Ad Hoc Committee on International Student Tuition Fees: ISAPOUR reported that one meeting was held last year, with 1 member attending. No others who previously indicated interest attended. After that meeting ISAPOUR met with the VP Finance and requested information on the allocation of the international student tuition money.

*Motion: RESOLVED that the GRC direct RAHIMI to re-invigorate the Ad Hoc Committee on UVic International Student Tuition Fees.*

*M/S HANI/WILLIAMS*

Discussion: As Chair of Students Affairs, RAHIMI feels that this Committee alone cannot absorb this issue. To ensure that there was support for the Committee, RAHIMI asked for a straw poll, and 4 GRC members indicated willingness to volunteer for the Committee.

*CARRIED*

Stipend Review: Still looking for Committee members. HORAN has reviewed Executive Reports to date.

Faculty of Graduate Studies Council: HORAN reported that the Psychology department is de-affiliating with the Neuroscience department. Also, UVic had worked to find the best accommodation for Saudi Arabian students ordered by their country to leave Canada. There were 26 graduate students affected. UVic assisted 6 students who were close to completion to fast track their defence and graduate. In other cases, leaves were offered to allow students to return and complete at a later date, and in at least one case, a graduate student was assisted to transfer to a university in Australia to complete their program.

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: GRC

*Motion: RESOLVED to accept the resignation of Jo Roy as GRC rep for Greek and Roman Studies, as a Bylaw & Policy Committee member, as the GSS rep to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, and as grad student rep on the Faculty of Humanities Council, as of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Anthony Gavin to the Stipend Review Committee.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Jae Hyun Kim to the Appeals Committee and the Bylaw & Policy Committee.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Matty Cervantes to the Bylaw & Policy Committee.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Kirsten Schuhmacher to the Finance Committee.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Anabelle Bernard Fournier to the Communications Committee.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Janice Niemann to the Student Affairs Committee.*

*M/S as an Omnibus Motion by: CLARK/FERGUSON*

*CARRIED.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Jay Joshi to the GRC Finance Committee.*

*M/S STOREY/HANI*

*CARRIED.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Chinwendu Nwanisobi to the Bylaw & Policy Committee.*

*M/S WILLIAMS/WANNIGER*

*CARRIED.*

*Motion: RESOLVED to accept the resignation of Christian Laureijs from the Student Affairs Committee due to a scheduling conflict.*

*M/S RAHIMI/WILLIAMS*

*CARRIED.*

As of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 GRC members have yet to be assigned to a Committee to fulfill their responsibilities as a GRC member.

#### Electoral Officer and Electoral Appeals Committee: Further Nominations and Election

The Chair called for nominations for the position of GSS Electoral Officer for 2018-19. Two candidates were nominated, RYLEY ERICKSON representative from Economics, and JAE HYUN KIM representative from Germanic and Slavic Studies. Both candidates introduced themselves, gave a description of their election related experience and their interest in the position.

A secret ballot was held, and ERICKSON was successful.

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Ryley Erickson as the GSS Electoral Officer for 2018-19.*

*M/S HANI/WILLIAMS*

*CARRIED.*

A call for further nominations to the Electoral Appeals Committee was held.

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Jae Hyun Kim, Tanya Tran, and Joseph Horan to the 2018-19 Electoral Appeals Committee.*

*M/S HANI/STOREY*

*CARRIED.*

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: UVIC

### Graduate student representative on the UVic Convocation Committee

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Chinwendu Nwanisobi to represent the GSS on the UVic Convocation Committee.*

M/S GOULD/TERESA

CARRIED

### Other UVic Committees

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Nicole Goldring to the Campus Sustainability Fund Applications Review Committee.*

M/S STOREY/HANI

CARRIED.

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Sean Oliver to the Faculty of Humanities Council.*

M/S WANNINGER/GOULD

CARRIED.

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect Annabelle Bernard Fournier to the Senate Committee on Academic Standards.*

M/S CLARK/GOULD

CARRIED

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

*Motion: RESOLVED the Executive Reports are referred to the Stipend Review Committee.*

M/S HANI/FERGUSON

CARRIED. HORAN abstained.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ELECTIONS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATION

CHAPPEL provided background on the need for a structured process for graduate students to be elected as representatives in their departments.

See Briefing: [2018-10-16 Briefing on proposal to update GSS elections of student reps](#)

*Motion: WHEREAS GSS policy on election of Grad Reps to the Graduate Representative Council has not been reviewed in recent years; and*

*WHEREAS a consistent electoral policy ensures graduate students all have ability to vote to stand for election and vote in elections to GSS and UVIC committees; and*

*WHEREAS unclear and irregular electoral policies undermine confidence in elections and impede graduate student representatives in performing their role; therefore*

*RESOLVED that the Bylaw and Policy Committee conduct a review of election procedures for graduate students elected in department and faculty elections; and*

*FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bylaw and Policy Committee develop proposals for improving election procedures and report on their findings to Graduate Council.*

*M/S HORAN/THOMPSON*

*CARRIED*

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### CLOSING ITEMS

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#### ADJOURNMENT

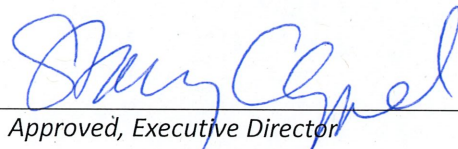
*MOTION: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.*

*M/S CLARK/HANI*

*CARRIED.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

  
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Approved, Chair

  
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Approved, Executive Director

klp/SC/jh

