

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA BLACKBOARD) MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: Drake RUSHFORD, Chair; Nicole KENT, Director of Communications; Jacob HUNT, Director of Finance; Daniel GUDIÑO, Director of Services; Antoine ROSE, Director of Student Affairs; Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting).

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm with RUSHFORD in the chair. Land acknowledgement offered by RUSHFORD.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved with the additions of the inclusion of a discussion of student fee adjustments in section G.

M/S ROSE/GUDINO

CARRIED

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED that the minutes from the February 3, 2021 Executive Board meeting are approved as presented.

M/S HUNT/ROSE

CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Complete:

TURNER to call bookkeeper to schedule a meeting with RUSHFORD and HUNT.

RUSHFORD to send screenshot of meeting attendance for Lobbyist report to TURNER.

Rescheduling board meetings to accommodate KENT's class schedule (suggested 2:45pm, Wednesdays).

E. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

F. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. A Master's student from McMaster was seeking recruitment support for a student on the impacts of COVID.
2. UBC was seeking support on a letter regarding Loujain al-Hathloul's imprisonment.

Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence presented has been received by the Executive Board.

M/S: ROSE/GUDINO

CARRIED

G. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF (GRC, OPERATIONAL RELATIONS ETC.)

1. February 10 GSS/UVic Exec Meeting
2. February 17 Operational Relations Meeting
3. February GRC Agenda
4. March Exec Meetings
5. SAGM Agenda
6. GSSBC Summit

Discussion:

RE: Feb 10 GSS/UVIC Exec Meeting

RUSHFORD: I expected more detailed responses to our agenda items from Operational Relations which we got.

[KENT arrived at 3:17pm]

RUSHFORD: The lesson learned for us is that we need more structure in going into the meeting. Next time, I'd recommend preparing a scripted presentation well ahead of time and having a very concrete plan a month in advance. TURNER will need to ensure the next board commits to crafting presentations to the Executive in future. We will need to begin planning the March Executive meeting presentations and do practice runs of presentations ASAP.

RE: Feb 17 Operational Relations Meeting

RUSHFORD: It does not look like they are still encouraging a mid-term return to in-person classes, which is good.

RE: February GRC

RUSHFORD: The following items are on the agenda:

1. Fee adjustment
2. GSSBC MOU
3. President Hall's Listening Tour

HUNT: Presented four options for changing the fee structure for 21-22:

1. Increase all fees by BC CPI
2. Increase total fees by BC CPI. Leave the clubs and travel fees the same and put the difference to Operating Funds
3. Increase the operating fund by \$2.00/student/term then all fees by BC CPI
4. Increase the operating fund by \$2.25/student/term then all fees by BC CPI

RUSHFORD: Options 1 and 2 do not require a referendum but 3 and 4 do. I would recommend NOT going to referendum with this board given the timing. We should set the next board up well to conduct a referendum to ensure the GSS remains financially stable and can offer services relevant to our members and meet our contractual obligations.

Motion: RESOLVED the GSS Executive Board moves the following fee schedule to the GRC for approval:

	Regular	Co-Op	Distance	
Operating	50.81	25.41	50.81	50.81
Capital	10.37	5.18	10.35	10.35
Childcare Fee	1.04	0.52	1.04	1.04
Anti-Violence	2.04	1.02	2.04	2.04
Ombudsperson	1.53	0.77	1.53	1.53
Constituency	1.36	0.68	1.36	1.36
Clubs	0.51	0.26	0.51	0.51
WUSC	5.11	2.56	5.10	5.10
Food Bank	1.87	0	0	0
CFUV	0.56	0	0	0
Uni 101	0.56	0	0	0
Con. Travel Fee	4.75	2.37	4.74	4.74
Dis. Travel Fee	1.11	0.56	1.11	1.11
Advocate Fund	1.02	0.51	1.02	1.02
Total	82.67	39.84	79.62	79.62

*M/S: ROSE/GUDINO
CARRIED*

TASK: TURNER to look into BOG deadlines to submit fee changes to see if a referendum post-election is possible this academic year.

RE: March Exec Meetings

RUSHFORD: A staff member recommended hosting three Exec meetings for wrap up, planning, and training.

*MOTION: RESOLVED The Exec meeting schedule for March 2021 will be:
March 3 2:45-4:15
March 17 2:45-4:15
March 31 2:45-4:15*

M/S: KENT/ROSE
CARRIED

RE: SAGM Agenda

RUSHFORD: Neil wants to have the agenda up next week online. Please send agenda items ASAP.

TASK: RUSHFORD to send draft agenda for SAGM to Executive by March 1.

TASK: ALL EXECUTIVE to submit SAGM items to RUSHFORD by March 4 and Committee reports by March 11.

RE: GSSBC Summit

GUDINO: The meeting was very useful. UNBC mentioned allocating funds to hire a lawyer but did not mention specifically why but it relates to pressure from the University and members. They don't have their own space and work in campus space. The university hired more staff and asked them to vacate their space. They are also receiving pressure regarding the equivalent to the UPASS and Health and Dental. When I brought up the issues with membership being disrespectful to staff, they mentioned having similar issues. Do we have legal counsel for these issues?

TURNER: Yes.

RUSHFORD: Pushing for an annual Summit in the Summer for better timing for collaboration and planning for Directors' terms.

H. LOBBYING REPORTS

No reports.

I. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

Postponed.

MEETING BUSINESS

1. IN-CAMERA: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROBATION REVIEW

The board moved to in-camera at 4:05pm and rose from in-camera at 4:15 pm.

Motion: RESOLVED the Executive Director has passed the probation period and will be made a permanent employee.

M/S: HUNT/GUDINO
CARRIED

2. GSSBC STUDENT AFFORDABILITY WORKING GROUP

Discussion:

RUSHFORD: SFU is striking a Student Affordability Working Group to focus on on-/off-campus affordability. I think we should review the White Papers for the Working Group and look into pushing for this Working Group with the GSS, UVSS, and UVic.

HUNT: This would help the next board with planning and would pair well with a fee increase work we are setting the next board up for.

GUDINO: Who would we want to have from UVic on the Working Group. Who is it at SFU?

RUSHFORD: Only know each of their GSS, SFSS, and SFU have two representatives. Will check in with Jim Dunsdon regarding the best people for the job at UVic. I only expect to check with UVSS for willingness during my term and not strike the working group.

TASK: RUSHFORD to request White Papers from SFU GSS board member.

3. EDI COMMITTEES AT UVIC

REF DOC: Appendix D Student Case 1. Kyla to give verbal update regarding Student Case 2.

<https://www.uvic.ca/equity/employment-equity/committees/index.php>

Discussion:

TURNER: Two students from BCMB have raised issues with the EDI Committee in their department. We'd like to increase graduate student representation on departmental EDI Committees to increase the equality, diversity, and inclusion of the committees themselves.

RUSHFORD: The GSS can and should take this up as a campaign to increase graduate student representation on EDI Committees and increasing the total number of EDI Committees. This will be largely an issue for the next board.

GUDINO: We also need to work on getting compensation for committee work as BIPOC students are more likely to serve due to tokenism and the additional labour is not compensated.

RUSHFORD: That is an issue I feel strongly about as well. We need compensation for service work.

TASK: RUSHFORD to bring compensation for committee work up to Jim DUNSDON in their next meeting.

4. TOWN HALL PLANNING UPDATE

Discussion:

GUDINO: They are requesting pre-recorded questions in 5 one minute videos and live polls during the events. As people engaged with the live polls, issues can be bumped up or down on the order of importance with more voted-on items being bumped up and less voted-on items moved down the list. The UVSS is having the meeting but not hosting. We need to resolve our hosting capacity and setting up a consultation process with our membership.

RUSHFORD: I could take on hosting if it occurred March 8. In terms of preparation, it is also on the GRC agenda for next week. We can start the consultation process there.

GUDINO: Volunteers to prep the presentation to GRC.

RUSHFORD: Thank you! I'd recommend coming up with example themes to start the conversation.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: RUSHFORD past few weeks focused on GSS/UVIC Exec meeting this week. Plan to schedule subcommittee meetings for next week after GRC. Will use outlook calendar availability to set the meeting times. Request to Directors to update their outlook calendars.

Director of Communications: KENT currently working on the handbook. We will prepare a digital copy. I've met with Karen and Kyla for more on-boarding.

Director of Finance: HUNT completed the ED probation review. Started work on the budgets for next year. Met with Ingrid regarding bookkeeping backlog.

Director of Services: GUDIÑO: Events Committee is currently very short "staffed" with only three students and Neil. We should look at increasing the committee size. Some members are struggling with mental health at the moment. I received training yesterday for the Senate Committee on Appeals. This committee hears both academic and non-academic affairs. The Ombudsperson has mentioned that some cases where students are struggling with mental health before presenting. (RUSHFORD recommended looking at using Student Advocacy Fund for this case)

Director of Student Affairs: ROSE no report.

Executive Director: TURNER has completed her probation review with RUSHFORD and HUNT. RUSHFORD will forward the questions asked to staff and board members so that they can be asked again for the next review of ED performance. The full review with staff and board comments will be stored in a Z: drive folder that the ED does not have access to for comparing performance reviews and an anonymous review will be stored in the hard copy personnel folder at the GSS. Otherwise, more of TURNER's time in the last two weeks has gone to advocacy for two outstanding student cases: one involving CAL accommodations for candidacy exams and one involving transphobic behaviour in the BCMB department. The ombudsperson, Jim Dunsdon, CAL, and others as appropriate have been engaged on these cases and TURNER is leveraging all conversations to build relationships with University personnel.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

None.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Next Executive Meetings: March 3, 2021 at 2:45pm.

ADJOURNMENT


Motion: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: ROSE/HUNT


CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

KT/KT/klp/KT

X 

Drake Rushford
GSS Chair 2020-21

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

