University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society

Graduate Representative Council

MEETING AGENDA (ONLINE VIA ZOOM – LINK
https://uvic.zoom.us/j/86123140801)

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021, 5-7 PM
SIGN IN REQUIRED: 4:30 PM

Zoom Information: Until the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the GRC will be holding its regular and committee meetings online using Zoom. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the technical requirements to participate, and with the platform’s interface at:
https://www.uvic.ca/systems/support/avmultimedia/zoomvideoconferencing/training.php

Video Conference Login: https://uvic.zoom.us/j/86123140801

Registration: Co-reps must decide prior to the meeting who will be voting. Please join the GRC meeting session at 4:30 pm to allow for registration. Upon connecting to the GRC meeting session, in a ‘chat’ message to the Executive Director please provide your name, V#, department and whether you are the voting rep for your department (if you have a co-rep).

Elected Academic Unit Reps (1 vote per academic unit) Invited (as of Sept 21):

- Anthropology: Zonke Guddah, Rae Dias Sepahi, Anushka Halder
- Art History & Visual Studies: Mel Granley, Shruti Parthasarathy French: Saba Khorosvi
- Biochemistry & Microbiology: Michael Allison Geography: Bruno Barusco, Wyatt Maddrux
- Biology: Sarah Lane Greek & Roman Studies: Alix Galumbeck
- Chemistry: Greg Gaube Health Information Science: Dee Wong
- Curriculum & Instruction: Joao Batista History: Dax Tate
- Electrical & Computer Engineering: Amir Mechanical Engineering: Gerard Avellaneda Domeme
- French: Saba Khosravi Medical Sciences (Neuroscience): Hannah Reid
- Greek & Roman Studies: Alix Galumbeck
- History: Dax Tate
- Law: Carol Marinho-Ribeiro, Paige Thoms
- Mechanical Engineering: Gerard Avellaneda Domeme
- Medical Sciences (Neuroscience): Hannah Reid
- Pacific & Asian Studies: Maeve Milligan
- Physics & Astronomy: Bobby Bickley, Jess Speedie
- Political Science: Lingyu Jing
- Psychology: Tom Ferguson
- Public Health and Social Policy: Zackary Derrick
- Theatre: Vjosa Mala, Arash Isapour
- Visual Arts: Colton Hash
- Other Reps Invited:
  - CUPE 4163:

GSS Executive Board (1 vote per elected Board member) Invited:

- Chair: David FOSTER Director of Services: Adair NG
- Director of Communications: Nicole KENT Director of Student Affairs: Nahid SAFARI
- Director of Finance: Ryan KHAN Executive Director: Kyla TURNER (non-voting)

Recorder: GSS Governance Coordinator: Karen L. Potts

Regrets:

Academic Units, and CUPE 4163, without Representation as of September 21, 2021:
- Business
- Child & Youth Care
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies
- English
- Environmental Studies
- Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education
- Germanic and Slavic Studies
- Greek & Roman Studies
- Hispanic & Italian Studies
- Indigenous Education
- Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
- Linguistics
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Music
- Nursing
- Philosophy
- Public Administration
- Social Dimensions of Health
CALL TO ORDER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5:00 PM
Council members are asked to take a turn to provide a personal statement of land acknowledgement.

STANDING ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA 5:05 PM
   
   MOTION: BIRT the agenda is approved as presented.

2. TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER (NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER) 5:07

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 5:10
   
   MOTION: BIRT the Minutes of the July 20, 2021 are approved as presented [OR with minor corrections as provided].

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/PAST MEETINGS (APPENDIX A and B) 5:12 PM
   
   Lead: Karen POTTS to introduce GRC Motion Log

   This is the time to provide updates, or ask follow-up questions, on previously assigned tasks and motions.

5. REPORTS

   A. MEMBERSHIP REPORT
      
      GSS Membership: As of September 21, 2021 there are 3117 GSS Members.
      
      GRC Membership: GRC now consists of XX voting members: XX academic units (out of 46 academic units eligible), CUPE, and 5 Executive Board representatives.
      
      Meeting Quorum: With XX regrets received, quorum for tonight’s meeting is XX.

   B. CHAIR’S REMARKS 5:15 PM

   C. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS (ON CONNECT) – QUESTIONS ARISING 5:30 PM
      
      Lead: Robert GUSTAS to introduce Executive Board Reports
      
      REF DOCS: Executive Board Reports April to August 2021

      Councillors are required to read the Executive Board reports (found on Connect) prior to the meeting.

   D. ACADEMIC UNIT & COUNCILLOR REPORTS – BREAKOUT ROOM(S) 5:35 PM
Members will have a chance to informally discuss issues facing students in their department or other issues pertaining to graduate students at UVic in groups of 4-5 with one or more Executive Board member in each breakout room. One non-Executive Board member in each group is requested to be designated to report the main discussion points back to GRC.

We will request members provide: academic unit reports, outstanding member concerns, what motivated them to serve on GRC and what they hope to work on during their GRC term. We would also like to know how we can make our work engaging and accessible to all (especially regarding online platform use, e.g., Zoom vs Brightspace).

E. ACADEMIC UNIT REPORTS: REPORT BACK 5:50 PM
A designated member from each breakout room is requested to report back to the full GRC meeting.

Members who would like their update recorded in the official minutes are requested to email their reports to gssgov@uvic.ca for inclusion.

F. 5 MINUTE BREAK 6:00 PM

G. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS 6:05 PM

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Appeals
- Bylaw & Policy
- Communications
- Electoral Appeals
- Events
- Finance
- Stipend Review
- Student Affairs
- Ad Hoc Committees
- Electoral Officer

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION OF ELECTORAL OFFICER:
MOTION: BIRT one graduate student is elected as the Electoral Officer for the 2021-22 term of Grad Council.
Nominations: Member elected:

MOTION: BIRT graduate students are elected as follows to GRC Standing Committees:

- Appeals – two or more GRC members
Nominations: Member elected:
  - Bylaw & Policy – up to 6 GRC members and up to 6 members-at-large
Nominations: Member elected:
  - Communications – up to 5 GRC members and up to 5 members-at-large
Nominations: Member elected:
  - Electoral Appeals – three GSS members (do not have to be GRC members)
Nominations: Member elected:
  - Events – up to 5 GRC members and up to 5 members-at-large
Nominations: Member elected:
  - Finance – up to 5 GRC members and up to 5 members-at-large
Nominations: Member elected:
  - Stipend Review – 5 GRC members
Nominations: Member elected:
  - Student Affairs – up to 8 GRC members and up to 8 members-at-large
Nominations: Member elected:

H. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES – VACANCIES (APP C) 6:20 PM

REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES:

Open Floor to hear any reports from graduate student reps on:
Board of Governors:
Senate:
Faculty of Graduate Studies Council:
UVic Advisory Committees:
UVic Award Committees:
UVic Search and Hiring Committees:
UVic Faculty Committees:

Note: Reps are encouraged to submit short written reports to gssgov@uvic.ca for inclusion in the minutes.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:
Current vacancies are listed in Appendix C. Please help advertise among grad students and/or consider volunteering.
**MOTION:** BIRT graduate student representatives are elected to the following 2021-22 UVic Committees:

- Executive Director, Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation Search Committee – 1 member

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Convocation Committee – 1 member

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Student Life Grants Committee – 1 member

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Faculty of Social Sciences Awards and Recognition Committee – 1 member in Social Sciences

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Faculty of Social Sciences Dean's Advisory Forum on Indigenization – 1 member in Social Sciences

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Faculty of Social Sciences Equity and Diversity Committee – 1 member in Social Sciences

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Faculty of Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum Committee – 1 member in Social Sciences

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Humanities Faculty Council – 1 member in Humanities

**Nominations:** Member elected:

- Faculty of Humanities Associate Dean Academic Search Committee – 1 member in Humanities

**Nominations:** Member elected:

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**MEETING NEW BUSINESS 6:35 PM**

1. **PRESENTATION OF 2021-22 GSS ANNUAL PLAN**  6:35 PM  
   **Lead:** David FOSTER  
   **Purpose:** for information  
   **REF DOC:** [GSS 2021-22 Annual Plan](#)  
   **MOTION:** BIRT the 2021-22 GSS Annual Plan is received by Grad Council as information and published on the GSS website.

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**CLOSING ITEMS 6:50 PM**

**IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:** CHECK YOUR GRC CONNECT HOMEPAGE CALENDAR!
Next GRC meeting: **October 26, 2021, 5-7pm via Zoom**

Land acknowledgement:

Timekeeper:

GRC training sessions:

- Understanding Consent Culture (Anti-Violence Project) – October 11, 2021, 5-7pm via Zoom
- Supporting a Survivor (Anti-Violence Project) – October 18, 2021, 5-7pm via Zoom
- **Robert’s Rules 101 – October 25, 2021, 5-6pm via Zoom**
- Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training – TBA
- Anti-Racism 101 (UVic Office of Equity and Human Rights) – TBA

Upcoming GSS Closures:

- September 30 – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
- October 11 – Thanksgiving

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION

Opportunity for any GRC member participating in a group or issue to request support or participation from other graduate students.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

*MOTION: BIRT the meeting is adjourned.*
APPENDIX A: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society

Graduate Representative Council

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

JULY 20, 2021, 5-7 PM

Elected Academic Unit Reps (1 vote per academic unit) Present:

- Anthropology: Robert Gustas
- Earth & Ocean Sciences: Chrissy Schellenberg
- French: Tiffany Kuo (Electoral Officer)
- Law: Adekunle (Kunle) Adewumi
- Mechanical Engineering: Gerard Avellaneda Domene
- Nursing: Erin Donald
- Pacific & Asian Studies: Maeve Milligan
- Physics & Astronomy: Bobby Bickley
- Psychology: Thomas Ferguson
- Other Reps Invited: CUPE 4163: Christine Todd (partial)
- Other Reps Invited: UCLA 2163: Zainab Makhoul (partial)

GSS Executive Board (1 vote per elected board member) Invited:

- Chair: David FOSTER
- Director of Communications: Nicole KENT
- Director of Finance: Ryan KHAN (partial)
- Executive Director: Kyla TURNER (non-voting)(recorder)

Regrets Received:

- Art History & Visual Studies: Mel Granley
- Biochemistry & Microbiology: Michael Allison
- English: Elyse Loewen
- Director of Student Affairs: Nahid SAFARI

Absent Without Notice or an Alternate:

- Chemistry: Gregory Gaube, Archita Adluri
- Civil Engineering: Aryia Eini, Maryam Monazami
- Economics: Gerard Mu
- Educational Psychology & Leadership: Lauren Petersen
- Electrical & Computer Engineering: Alexandros Dimopoulos
- Geography: Brianna Brandon, Sejal Pramlall
- History: Michelle Snidal
- Medical Sciences (Neuroscience): Hannah Reid
- Music: Tiess McKenzie
- Political Science: Brianna Parent-Long

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm with FOSTER in the chair when called to order.

KENT offered a personal land acknowledgement.

STANDING ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
MOTION: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.
M/S FOSTER/MILLIGAN
APPROVED by Consent.

2. TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER (NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER)

GUSTAS volunteered as timekeeper.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: RESOLVED the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 and June 8, 2021 Grad Council meeting are approved with corrections to Gerard MU’s last name and minor grammatical errors.
M/S: FOSTER/KUO
APPROVED by Consent.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/PAST MEETINGS

None.

5. REPORTS

A. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

GSS Membership: As of July 13, 2021 there are 2591 GSS Members.

GRC Membership: Since the June 8, 2021 GRC meeting, there have been 2 co-rep resignations and 1 new elected Councilor. Welcome Gerard Avellaneda Domene from Mechanical Engineering!

GRC now consists of 32 voting members: 28 academic units (out of 47 academic units eligible), 1 additional academic unit, CUPE, and 5 Executive Board representatives.

Meeting Quorum: With 8 regrets received, quorum for tonight’s meeting is 12.

B. CHAIR’S REMARKS

See Appendix A for the full text of the Chair’s remarks.

Discussion:
DONALD requested further clarification on UVic’s COVID-19 Safety Plan. FOSTER stated that we will keep GRC informed of any new information as it becomes available.

C. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS – MOTION TO ACCEPT

MOTION: RESOLVED the Executive Board Reports for April, May and June 2021 are accepted, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee
M/S: FOSTER/DOMEME
APPROVED by Consent.

D. RESIGNATIONS

MOTION: RESOLVED the following resignations are accepted effective immediately:

Luisa Trux from Bylaw and Policy Committee
Meng Qi (Annie) Wu from Student Affairs Committee
**Liam O’Sullivan from Finance Committee**

*M/S: FOSTER/SCHELLENBERG*

**APPROVED by Consent.**

**E. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS**

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

None.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Appeals – NG reported that the Appeals Committee has no reports.
- Bylaw & Policy – FOSTER reported that BPC has approved a series of bylaw changes related to physical space and advertisements to allow for better online engagements and voting. FOSTER acknowledged KUO for her work on the voting related bylaw changes in her role as the Electoral Officer.

[TODD dropped call at 5:29. Meeting lost quorum.]

- Communications – KENT gave no report
- Events – NG reported on Speed Friending with Global Community with good turn out. Planning for orientation events is coming along well.
- Finance – KHAN not present.
- Student Affairs – SAFARI not present.
- Stipend Review – GUSTAS reported that the SRC is updating their terms of reference and setting executive top up motions.
- Ad Hoc Committees – no reports.
- Electoral Officer – no reports.

**F. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES**

**REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES:**

Board of Governors: FOSTER reported that the BOG has not met in their new term yet.

Senate: See Appendix B for Joseph Martin’s April Senate report received July 20, 2021.

Make Transit Work Coalition: FOSTER reported that he is working to ensure that there is a GSS representative on the forthcoming Student Advisory group for BC Transit.

**G. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

GUSTAS reported high rates of anxiety around returning to campus in the Fall. Also questions about whether or not Grad House will reopen in future. Newly arriving international students are having difficulty securing housing.

DONALD reported Nursing remains disconnected as a professional program. Eliciting service involvement at UVic is a challenge for mid-career students. One of the things that facilitated
engagement from Nursing in 2020-21 was distanced/online meetings. DONALD requested hybrid meetings to increase accessibility.

[KHAN arrived at 5:43. Meeting made quorate again. MILLIGAN’s call dropped 5:46-5:48.]

KUO reported that there are questions about Grad House and concerns around campus return. SCHELLENBERG reported anxieties around return to campus plans and the possibility of online courses again. DOMEME reported interest in the lab safety procedures regarding COVID-19. BICKLEY reported that students are looking forward to the beginning of the semester. ADEWUMI reported dissatisfaction with the level of support incoming international students are receiving from UVic during COVID. FERGUSON reported that Psychology surveyed grad students regarding TA work in the Fall and advocating to their department for TA needs. Incoming students have also been matched with a grad student mentor.

H. DEPARTMENT REPORTS: GRC REP EXIT INTERVIEWS

FOSTER asked GRC reps to report any highlights, lowlights, and recruitment tips for GRC. BICKLEY felt the overall experience was positive and enjoyed the opportunity to advocate for students. GUSTAS reported that he didn’t know how much GRC and GSS did until he got involved and felt it was integral to grad studies at UVic. We should show more members what we are doing and increase communications. DONALD stated it was nice to see the non-university side of grad school and how graduate students advocate for change. Her experience on UVic committees was especially meaningful and the best part of her term on GRC. DOMEME’s department had been attempting to recruit for a long time. He advised GRC to be clearer in explaining the role of GRC reps, focus on CV building elements for leadership skills and public speaking. FERGUSON noted the first part of the pandemic was a challenge to GRC, but that was a common experience across the board for September 2020. The increased work outcomes from Bylaw and Policy were encouraging and kept members engaged. TURNER recapped that better hybrid meeting structures, getting out on campus to recruit, and bringing back food to in-person meetings would facilitate GRC recruitment.

BREAK FOR 5 MINUTES

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. GRC COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE REVISIONS

Leads: David FOSTER and Robert GUSTAS
REF DOCS: Committee TOR Revisions Approved by BPC
MOTION: RESOLVED the revisions to the Bylaw and Policy Committee Terms of Reference are adopted as presented, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
FURTHER RESOLVED the revisions to the Finance Committee Terms of Reference are adopted as presented, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
FURTHER RESOLVED the revisions to the Stipend Review Committee Terms of Reference are adopted as presented, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee and the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
M/S: FOSTER/BICKLEY
APPROVED by Consent.

2. 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD TRAINING COMPENSATION

Lead: Robert GUSTAS

MOTION: RESOLVED the following motion passed by Grad Council on February 23, 2021 is rescinded, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee:

“RESOLVED that Grad Council approves the expenditure of up to $2000 from the Operating Fund for a collection of training sessions for non-returning, incoming Executive Board members to take place during the week after the SAGM, with a stipend for those members to be per hour of training attended at a rate of $27.10. FURTHER RESOLVED that the outgoing Exec shall be paid per hour of training attended outside their term at a rate of $27.10.”

FURTHER RESOLVED Grad Council approves the payment of $200 to each member of the current Executive Board (David FOSTER, Nahid SAFARI, Nicole KENT, Adair NG, and Ryan KHAN) in recognition of time spent training for their positions in March, April, May, and June of 2021, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

M/S: GUSTAS/KUO
CARRIED. Executive Board members all abstained from this motion.

3. IN-PERSON EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Leads: David FOSTER and Kyla TURNER

MOTION: RESOLVED the following motion passed by the Executive Board on April 7, 2021 is rescinded:

“RESOLVED ‘in-person event’ is defined as an event that involves participants interacting in the same physical space and is not necessary for the continued functioning of the Society.
“FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Board reaffirms that the Society will not hold or sponsor in-person events until the Executive Board or Grad Council decides otherwise.
“FURTHER RESOLVED the Society recognizes that its jurisdiction is limited to the Province of B.C., however, Executive Board Members, Grad Council members and volunteers located outside the Province of B.C. are expected to adhere to the legislation and public health orders of the jurisdiction in which they are located.”
FURTHER RESOLVED “in-person event” is defined as an organized event that involves Society members interacting in the same physical space and is not necessary for the continued functioning of the Society.
FURTHER RESOLVED “in-person event” does not include in-person services offered to Society members on an individual basis.
FURTHER RESOLVED “outdoor event” is defined as an in-person event that takes place in an open space without vertical walls or partitions and which may include an awning or canopy.
FURTHER RESOLVED “indoor event” is defined as an in-person event that takes place in a space with one or more vertical walls or partitions.
FURTHER RESOLVED all persons entering the Halpern Centre shall be required to wear non-medical face coverings
FURTHER RESOLVED the Society may hold or sponsor outdoor events provided that social distancing is maintained outside of each participant’s chosen personal contacts.
FURTHER RESOLVED the Society may hold or sponsor in-person indoor events provided that the requirements for indoor events specified by the BC Provincial Health Officer’s order regarding gatherings and events dated July 7, 2021, until such time as this motion is revoked, and that all participants are required to wear non-medical face coverings
FURTHER RESOLVED no meetings of Society members (including Executive Board meetings, GRC meetings, general meetings, committees and working groups) shall be held in-person.
FURTHER RESOLVED Society Board members or volunteers may choose to attend and represent the Society at in-person events and meetings held by the University, however the Society does not endorse such events and meetings and will not accept liability for any damages caused by holding such events and meetings.
FURTHER RESOLVED the Society recognizes that its jurisdiction is limited to the Province of B.C., however, Executive Board Members, Grad Council members and volunteers located outside the Province of B.C. are expected to adhere to the legislation and public health orders of the jurisdiction in which they are located.

M/S: Kuo/Bickley

Friendly Amendments to allow for restricted indoor events and to include a mask mandate for Halpern Centre.

Discussion:

FOSTER provided history for the previous GRC motion that needs to be rescinded in order to allow in-person events. FOSTER presented a rationale for not allowing indoor, in-person events until further notice. He noted that the Delta variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible and efficacy rates of a single dose of vaccine against Delta are lower than two doses. The UK, which has a similar vaccination rate to Canada, is in the midst of a new wave of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) notes that outdoor events are significantly safer than indoor events. The vaccination rates among UVic students is not fully known and international students do not have equal access to vaccinations compared to domestic students getting vaccinated in Canada. If unvaccinated people (including newly arriving international students) may be present, PHAC recommends maintaining masking and distancing requirements. From the GSS perspective, we do not have capacity to restrict events to vaccinated people and traditionally GSS events include food and drink and therefore masking could become difficult.

TURNER presented a rationale for allowing indoor, in-person events, noting that BC’s vaccination rates are very high and Island Health’s case counts are low. The BC Restart Plan includes reasonable measures reflecting the vaccination and case count rates. In following the BC Restart Plan, we can increase member engagement at the start of the year when we reach the highest percentage of students. We can present an option for students who feel comfortable gathering indoors, while not requiring indoor participation of any member, volunteer, or staff.

DONALD asked for clarification on the definition of which events would be affected by this motion. TURNER clarified that it would be for events in Halpern Centre and around campus if occurring
indoors. DONALD asked if these were the same spaces the GSS has advocated for ventilation upgrades. TURNER stated that those buildings on campus that could receive a ventilation upgrade had. Halpern Centre is NOT received a ventilation upgrade, but we have the capacity to increase ventilation by opening windows.

FOSTER clarified that the motion allows for orientation events hosted by the University but does not allow those events to be endorsed.

TURNER solicited GRC reps to provide examples of the kinds of safety measures would be appropriate at this time.

DONALD argued for ventilation being the most important safety measure. We’ve asked UVic to take more precautions and should take all precautions now. GUSTAS and KUO agreed that the GSS should walk our talk after repeat requests to the University for more safety measures.

KUO and TURNER requested a friendly amendment to mandate masks in Halpern Centre.

FOSTER requested a friendly amendment to include the July 7, 2021 public health requirements. Regardless of changes to the PHO orders, we can commit to these requirements to decrease capacity.

CARRIED.

Erin DONALD abstained from the friendly amendment allowing for restricted indoor, in-person events following the July 7, 2021 PHO guidelines.

MOTION: RESOLVED to extend the meeting by ten minutes. 
M/S: FOSTER/DONALD
APPROVED by Consent

4. STUDENT ADVOCATE FUND

Lead: David FOSTER

REF DOCS: Student Advocate Fund Report to GRC

MOTION: RESOLVED the Student Advocate Fund Report for 2019-2021 is received as information and its recommendations are referred to the Executive Board.
M/S: KHAN/KUO

Discussion:

FOSTER provided the background on how the Student Advocate Fund came into being in a 2019 referenda posed by both GSS and UVSS to create a fund to hire a full time student advocate. The GSS referendum passed, but the UVSS referendum failed. Therefore, sufficient funding for hiring an advocate was not secured. Since then, no individual cases have been approved for funding and the funds were not appropriately separated out into a restricted fund in GSS accounting. FOSTER recommends the following resolution to the accounting concerns:

1. The Executive Director confirm with the bookkeeper the amount of money that should be in the Student Advocate Fund based on fee remittances from September 2019 to April 2021.

2. The Executive Director work with the bookkeeper, auditors and the GSS’ financial institution to establish the Student Advocate Fund as a restricted fund in GSS budgets, audits, financial statements and bank accounts.

3. The Finance Committee revise the Terms of Reference of the Student Advocate Fund to allow the Fund to be used for broader purposes than currently permitted. It is recommended that the purposes be expanded to include systemic advocacy to improve University policies and
procedures and the delivery of information, referrals and education to graduate students on University policies and procedures and student rights. The revised Terms of Reference would be submitted to the Semi-Annual General Meeting in March 2022 for approval. KHAN noted that we will need to resolve bookkeeping concerns before any funds are moved within GSS accounts.

APPROVED by Consent

CLOSING ITEMS

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

Next GRC meeting: September 28, 2020

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: RESOLVED that the meeting is adjourned.
M/S GUSTAS/KENT
APPROVED by Consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm.

KT/klp

David Foster
GSS Chair 2021-22

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director
Chair’s Remarks July 20, 2021

- The GSS held a referendum on the Extended Health and Dental Plan on June 9, 10 and 11 via Web-vote. There was a 9% turnout (impressive for a summer referendum) and the majority voted to increase the fee and maintain their current coverage. I’d like to express appreciation to all GSS Board and staff members and the Electoral Officer for their excellent work.
- The GSS has continued to raise concerns regarding ventilation in classrooms, accommodation for medically vulnerable students, and international students unable to arrive in Canada.
- UVic has stated that 95% of buildings with mechanical ventilation systems should have MERV 13 filters installed (the industry standard for reducing COVID transmission). Ventilation will be run an hour before occupancy and at a higher rate than normal. However, it is not yet clear what will be done in buildings without mechanical ventilation.
- The Centre for Accessible Learning will have increased staff and resources to address requests for medical accommodation. Each request will be handled on an individual basis and there is no overall policy regarding remote attendance for those with medical conditions.
- A large number of international students were identified in graduate courses and some courses were moved to online as a result.
- The GSS co-signed a letter to the UVic administration with the UVic Faculty Association and staff unions asking for accommodations for medically vulnerable and international students, and the ability for instructors to mandate masks in classes.
- The University responded that they will not allow mask mandates in classes. An additional $885,000 will be provided for learning and teaching technology support staff which may assist in accommodations of people needing to join classes remotely (e.g., sick or self-isolating).
- According to International Student Services, 69 graduate students are not planning to attend UVic in person this fall. The University is working to accommodate them on a case-by-case basis.
- The GSS endorsed a letter written by the UVSS and Camosun College Students’ Society asking BC Transit to continue mandatory masks on buses. BC Transit responded that they will not do this, but they will continue other measures such as enhanced cleaning of buses, partitions between drivers and asking passengers to stay home if they have symptoms.
- The GSS is participating in the Access4All Campaign which is led by the UVic Society for Students with Disabilities and focused on ensuring adequate academic accommodations for medically vulnerable students. Anyone interested in this campaign is encouraged to contact the UVic SSD.
- The GSS has responded to the tragic discovery of thousands of graves on the sites of residential schools across Canada by sharing resources and opportunities to offer support to Indigenous communities with our membership and via social media. The GSS will be hosting Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training in the Fall and Spring semesters for all interested graduate students.
- The GSS has not been able to produce monthly financial statements since March due to issues with an external contractor. I am working with the Executive Director and the Director of Finance to resolve this situation. It is not ideal for the Board as we should have access to financial statements to enable us to perform financial oversight of the Society.
- The GSS Board has decided to begin the process of hiring a second manager, a position that has been vacant since the Grad House Restaurant closed due to COVID-19. Currently the GSS has only one full-
time staff person and three part-time staff. The need for a second full-time staff person has been identified regardless of whether the restaurant reopens.

PREVIOUS MINUTES APPENDIX B: SENATE REPORT

From: Joseph Martin <joeymartin888@gmail.com>
Sent: July 20, 2021 4:00 PM
To: GSS Governance <gssgov@uvic.ca>
Cc: David Foster - GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>; Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>
Subject: Re: April Senate report

My apologies for this abysmally late reply. It's been a busy summer getting my thesis across the finish line and starting a new job.

I would say that the erosion of faculty participation in governance is not as profound in Canada (at least at UVic) as compared to in the US. In fact, from my experience on the Senate, it appears that the faculty is far and away the stakeholder which receives the most deference. The clearest example of this was with regards to the Senate's review of Course Experience Surveys where the many legitimate concerns of faculty members were covered in depth without a single mention of how the CES is important for students or their education. The labour rights perspective roundly trumped any discussion of educational quality.

I think that in the current context there hasn't been any large negative effects of the faculty's disproportionate share of power in academic governance because we by-and-large have fantastic faculty who truly care about UVic students and the institution. That being said, the current structure of the Senate is such that the faculty have an almost assured majority by themselves (excluding administrators and staff) and thus the presence of students appears relegated almost to an "observer" status in comparison.

Unfortunately, being a master's student, there is virtually no way for me to serve past my one term on the Senate short of failing my defence, but my replacement on the SCAG committee is a law student who seems keen and able to continue pushing for more effective student representation in the Senate.

Best of luck with the new academic year and thank you for all you do for the GSS.

Joey
Joseph Martin
MSc Student
School of Earth and Ocean Sciences
University of Victoria
## APPENDIX B: GRC RECORD OF APPROVED MOTIONS\(^1\)/ASSIGNED TASKS

### A. AS OF JULY 20\(^{TH}\), 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRC MEETING</th>
<th>MOTION/TASK</th>
<th>COMPLETED</th>
<th>REVOKED OR MODIFIED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MOTION:</strong> RESOLVED that the Student Affairs Committee investigates the international student funding issues through a potential sub-committee.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TASK: TRIMBLE asked all GRC reps check in on these issues in their departments and report back at the next GRC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 September 29</td>
<td>TASK: The Executive Board designate someone to reach out to CUPE regarding collaboration on issues of shared concern, e.g. the allocation of TA work.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TASK: Add to the Executive Board agenda the potential for an official request from GSS that UVic expedite its action on the VPN issue.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TASK: TRIMBLE and RUSHFORD to work on an official statement from GSS on the international student issues, emphasizing the urgency for UVic to resolve the VPN issue, for circulation and electronic vote for GRC via the listserv.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Motion:</strong> RESOLVED that all regular agendas and minutes, from 2020-21 onward, for the GSS Executive Board, Graduate Representative Council, and General Meetings are posted on the GSS website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 October 27</td>
<td><strong>FURTHER RESOLVED</strong> that from 2020-21 onward, Executive and GRC Committee general membership meeting reports will also be posted on the GSS website.</td>
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<td><em>(Note: replaces July 20 GRC motion – rescinded)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Motion:</strong> RESOLVED that the GSS formally protest this lack of response in terms of student data security with a letter, written by the GSS Chair, to President Hall noting a motion passed at the Graduate Representative Council.</td>
<td>Reemphasized Dec. 15/20</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^{1}\) This document is intended to assist with resolution follow-up and completion, particularly during Executive and GRC annual transitions. Motions pertaining to internal GRC administration such as the approval of agendas, minutes, committee appointments have not been summarized in this document.
Motion: RESOLVED that the GSS put forward a statement of solidarity with the Mi’kmaq people and their inherent rights to this land and the use of its resources.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this statement of solidarity be created through a communitarian structure, within the framework of anti-racism, as to ensure that we center the voices of Indigenous Peoples, and not further perpetrate colonial violence through our language or our methodology.

Motion: RESOLVED that Grad Council recommends changing the hourly rate of the executive board stipend from $23.27/hr to match the current rate of TA wages, currently $27.10/hr.

FURTHER RESOLVED a motion to change the hourly rate of the executive board stipend as described in the preceding clause be included on the November 24th AGM agenda.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK: RUSHFORD and TURNER to confirm the Childcare Services Advisory and Multifaith Centre Advisory Committee appointments.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amended Motion: RESOLVED that Grad Council approves the payment of $100 to the incumbent Director of Communications.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OMNIBUS MOTION:</th>
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<tr>
<td>RESOLVED that the Dec. 15 motion to award a $100 stipend to the Incumbent Director of Communications be rescinded.</td>
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</table>

**RESOLVED that Nicole Kent, incoming Director of Communications, will receive a $100 stipend in recognition of GSS work undertaken prior to the January 1st start of her term of office.**

**TASK: RUSHFORD to look at how GSS can be responsible/accountable to graduate students who are medically compromised and at greater risk or disadvantage from any campus re-opening plan that does not include equal off campus options. (Specifically to review GSS bylaws for potential amendments at March SAGM.)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td><strong>Motion: RESOLVED that the CSPT program will have a seat on the</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resolved</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Graduate Representative Council for the remainder of the 2020-21 GRC</strong></td>
<td><strong>year.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Motion: RESOLVED that the GRC will strike a Recruitment Committee to</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resolved</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>engage with graduate students and encourage participate in the Executive</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resolved</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Board and GRC elections.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Resolved</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>TASK: ALL GRC reps to email TURNER, as to whether academic unit has an association or not, formal or informal, active, inactive, and any contact information. TURNER will send out a formal request on the GRC listserv.</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td><strong>Motion: RESOLVED THAT Grad Council approves the payment of $200 to</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rescinded July 20th, 2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>the chair, $150 to the director of finance, $100 to the director of student</strong></td>
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<td><strong>affairs and $100 to the director of services.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Motion: RESOLVED that Grad Council approves the expenditure of up to</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>$2000 from the Operating Fund for a collection of training sessions for</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>non-returning, incoming Executive Board members to take place during</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>the week after the SAGM, with a stipend for those members to be per</strong></td>
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<td><strong>hour of training attended at a rate of $27.10.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>FURTHER RESOLVED that the outgoing exec shall be paid per hour of</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>training attended outside their term at a rate of $27.10.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion: <strong>WHEREAS BC CPI for 2020 is 2.2% increase, and</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEREAS a CPI increase is applied to certain GSS fees*, therefore</td>
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<tr>
<td>RESOLVED THAT the 2021-2022 GSS membership fee schedule is as follows,**</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>unless changed by a membership referendum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TASK: GUDIÑO and RUSHFORD will contact all volunteers in the near future to meet to assist with the video creation and wording of the question for the President.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion: RESOLVED THAT Grad Council endorse the presented Memorandum of Understanding for the Graduate Student Societies of BC (GSSBC);</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Item</td>
<td></td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 April 20</td>
<td>Internal, administrative tasks and motions only.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2021 June 8 | TASK: FOSTER committed to asking about ventilation communication at the next UVic/GSS Operational Relations meeting.  

**MOTION:** RESOLVED that the Policy on Policies and Procedures is adopted as presented, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.  
FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governance Definitions are adopted as presented, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.  
FURTHER RESOLVED that the existing definition of “Procedure” is struck from the Interim Governance Manual, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.  

**MOTION:** RESOLVED that Grad Council approves the payment of $375 to Ryan KHAN in compensation for hours worked as Director of Finance during the month of April 2021. |
| 2021 July 20 | **MOTION:** RESOLVED the revisions to the Bylaw and Policy Committee Terms of Reference are adopted as presented, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.  
FURTHER RESOLVED the revisions to the Finance Committee Terms of Reference are adopted as presented, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.  
FURTHER RESOLVED the revisions to the Stipend Review Committee Terms of Reference are adopted as presented, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee and the Bylaw and Policy Committee.  

**MOTION:** RESOLVED the following motion passed by Grad Council on February 23, 2021 is rescinded, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee:  

“RESOLVED that Grad Council approves the expenditure of up to $2000 from the Operating Fund for a collection of training
sessions for non-returning, incoming Executive Board members to take place during the week after the SAGM, with a stipend for those members to be per hour of training attended at a rate of $27.10. FURTHER RESOLVED that the outgoing Exec shall be paid per hour of training attended outside their term at a rate of $27.10.”

FURTHER RESOLVED Grad Council approves the payment of $200 to each member of the current Executive Board (David FOSTER, Nahid SAFARI, Nicole KENT, Adair NG, and Ryan KHAN) in recognition of time spent training for their positions in March, April, May, and June of 2021, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

MOTION: RESOLVED the following motion passed by the Executive Board on April 7, 2021 is rescinded:

“RESOLVED ‘in-person event’ is defined as an event that involves participants interacting in the same physical space and is not necessary for the continued functioning of the Society.

“FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Board reaffirms that the Society will not hold or sponsor in-person events until the Executive Board or Grad Council decides otherwise.

“FURTHER RESOLVED the Society recognizes that its jurisdiction is limited to the Province of B.C., however, Executive Board Members, Grad Council members and volunteers located outside the Province of B.C. are expected to adhere to the legislation and public health orders of the jurisdiction in which they are located.”

FURTHER RESOLVED “in-person event” is defined as an organized event that involves Society members interacting in the same physical space and is not necessary for the continued functioning of the Society.

FURTHER RESOLVED “in-person event” does not include in-person services offered to Society members on an individual basis.

FURTHER RESOLVED “outdoor event” is defined as an in-person event that takes place in an open space without vertical walls or partitions and which may include an awning or canopy.

FURTHER RESOLVED “indoor event” is defined as an in-person event that takes place in a space with one or more vertical walls or partitions.

FURTHER RESOLVED all persons entering the Halpern Centre shall be required to wear non-medical face coverings
FURTHER RESOLVED the Society may hold or sponsor outdoor events provided that social distancing is maintained outside of each participant’s chosen personal contacts.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Society may hold or sponsor in-person indoor events provided that the requirements for indoor events specified by the BC Provincial Health Officer's order regarding gatherings and events dated July 7, 2021, until such time as this motion is revoked, and that all participants are required to wear non-medical face coverings.

FURTHER RESOLVED no meetings of Society members (including Executive Board meetings, GRC meetings, general meetings, committees and working groups) shall be held in-person.

FURTHER RESOLVED Society Board members or volunteers may choose to attend and represent the Society at in-person events and meetings held by the University, however the Society does not endorse such events and meetings and will not accept liability for any damages caused by holding such events and meetings.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Society recognizes that its jurisdiction is limited to the Province of B.C., however, Executive Board Members, Grad Council members and volunteers located outside the Province of B.C. are expected to adhere to the legislation and public health orders of the jurisdiction in which they are located.

Friendly Amendments to allow for restricted indoor events and to include a mask mandate for Halpern Centre.

MOTION: RESOLVED the Student Advocate Fund Report for 2019-2021 is received as information and its recommendations are referred to the Executive Board.
### APPENDIX C – CURRENT VACANCIES ON UVIC COMMITTEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Type</th>
<th>Number of vacancies</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senate Standing Committees</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advisory Committees</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness Education and Health Promotion Advisory Committee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multifaith Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Services Advisory Board</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vikes Nation Advisory Council</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convocation Committee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Award Adjudication Committees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hiring/Appointment Committees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Director, Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation Search Committee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Humanities Associate Dean Academic Search Committee</td>
<td>1 in Humanities</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Faculty/Department Committees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities Faculty Council</td>
<td>1 in Humanities</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences Graduate Curriculum Committee</td>
<td>1 in Social Sciences</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences Equity and Diversity Committee</td>
<td>1 in Social Sciences</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences Dean's Advisory Forum on Indigenization</td>
<td>1 in Social Sciences</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences Awards and Recognition Committee</td>
<td>1 in Social Sciences</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Committees</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Life Grants Committee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021-22</td>
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</tbody>
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