

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2021

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

### STANDING ITEMS

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:32PM with FOSTER in the chair.

#### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by FOSTER.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved with an amendment to include the Faculty Association letter to the provincial and federal governments in the correspondence received section.*

*M/S: FOSTER/KHAN*

*APPROVED by Consent*

#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the July 28, 2021 Executive Board Meeting are approved with minor grammatical corrections.*

*M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI*

*APPROVED by Consent*

#### E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tabled.

#### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

#### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Reference: UVic Faculty Association email re: FA Survey and Advocacy to mandate masks and vaccines on campus, along with requests for increased university autonomy over COVID-19 safety plans on campus.

*Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received.*

*M/S: FOSTER/KHAN*

Discussion:

TURNER noted that the Rapid Point-of-Care (POC) COVID-19 Testing guidelines from the BCCDC state that organizations can enrol to become a POC testing site. FOSTER noted there is a cost associated with POC testing

that may prevent UVic from taking on POC testing.

KHAN asked for clarification around who would bear the cost of POC testing. FOSTER and TURNER stated that it should be the University paying for POC testing and we may need to advocate that UVic not pass along the costs to students.

SAFARI asked for an update on the vaccine mandate. FOSTER noted that the vaccination discussion with President Hall focused on access and equity concerns.

*APPROVED by Consent*

**TASK: TURNER to ask Neil BARNEY to circulate the Faculty Association petition on in-person classes via the biweekly e-bulletin with a note that the Executive Board is presenting the option to sign but does not take an official position on mandatory vaccines.**

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

##### 1. OPERATIONAL RELATIONS AGENDA, AUGUST 26, 2021

Discussion items:

Agenda items recommended by the board:

1. Rapid Point-of-Care Testing Guidelines from the BCCDC.
2. Walk-in vaccination resources for newly arriving international students.
3. Athletics fees.

#### I. LOBBYING REPORTS

FOSTER submitted his report for a meeting with President Hall.

#### J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

##### 1. MSP CAMPAIGN PETITION

REF DOC: [MSP Petition](#)

Discussion:

SAFARI noted that the current draft of the petition covered the reasons why MSP fees for international students are a barrier to post-secondary engagement. Many of UVic's international students are coming from low-income countries (most coming from China, followed by US and India for single countries) and therefore increased costs are a barrier.

FOSTER asked about operationalizing this petition. SAFARI stated she can circulate this in person and send the petition around to other universities.

*Motion: RESOLVED to approve the MSP Fee for International Students petitions (noting that minor edits may still be made)*

*M/S: SAFARI/FOSTER*

*APPROVED by Consent*

*KHAN's abstention noted.*

**TASK: FOSTER to arrange a meeting with UVSS and SAFARI to circulate the MSP Fee petition.**

**TASK: FOSTER to bring the MSP Fee petition to GSSBC.**

**TASK: TURNER to circulate petition in person during orientation events and make the petition available at the front office.**

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## OLD BUSINESS

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### 1. SCHEDULING

*Motion:* BIRT the following dates are set for Executive Board training sessions:

- Sexualized Violence

TABLED

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## NEW BUSINESS

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### 1. LETTER TO MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION RE: IN-PERSON CLASSES

REF DOCS: [August 5, 2021 Global News story](#); [Letter to Minister Anne Kang re: in-person classes](#)

*Motion:* RESOLVED the GSS Board of Directors endorses the letter addressed to the BC Minister of Advanced Education from the Simon Fraser Students' Society, Simon Fraser Graduate Students' Society, UVic Faculty Association, and staff unions at SFU, UVic, UBC and UNBC regarding return to in-person classes.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED by Consent

KHAN's abstention noted.

**TASK: FOSTER to add the GSS as a signatory on the SFSS letter to Minister King re: in-person classes.**

### 2. NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

*Motion:* WHEREAS the Government of Canada enacted legislation on June 3, 2021 creating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021, and WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has directed that provincial public sector employers will observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021, and

WHEREAS the Society can support the goals of truth and reconciliation by also observing this date,

RESOLVED the Society shall recognize and promote September 30, 2021 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED by Consent

### 3. GSS 2021-22 HANDBOOK

KENT noted she is awaiting letters from President Hall's office. KENT has a draft of the Board's welcome letter that she will circulate then send off to Neil BARNEY.

**TASK: KENT to request Neil BARNEY circulate a draft of the complete handbook to the board before September 1.**

### 4. GSS SEPTEMBER 2021 EVENTS

NG noted that the September events will include Wednesday Coffee facilitated by Neil BARNEY and TURNER, co-facilitated events with campus partners on Thursdays, and crafting events on Fridays. These events would be hosted in-person and indoors only once it is safe to do so.

**TASK: TURNER and NG to request board participation when a full schedule of Fall 2021 Events is set.**

## 5. GRC RECRUITMENT AND ORIENTATION

TURNER reminded board members to complete the recruitment document circulated by Karen POTTS. KHAN noted that we should circulate our email addresses to help folks be in touch.

## 6. OPERATIONS AND SERVICES MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION/POSTING

REF DOCS: [Operations and Services Manager Job Description](#), [Operations and Services Manager Posting](#)

*Motion: RESOLVED the Operations and Services Manager Job Description and Job Posting are approved as recommended by the Management Hiring Committee.*

*M/S: KHAN/NG*

*APPROVED by Consent*

**TASK: TURNER to post the Operations and Services Manager job posting on the previously agreed upon job boards and mailing lists.**

## 7. IN-CAMERA SESSION

- a) Legal re: Research Assistants' Status
- b) Contracts re: Bookkeeper
- c) Personnel

*Motion: RESOLVED to move in-camera at 2:40 p.m.*

*M/S: FOSTER/KHAN*

*APPROVED by Consent*

*Motion: RESOLVED to move out of in-camera at 3:40 p.m.*

*M/S: FOSTER/KHAN*

*APPROVED by Consent*

**TASK: TURNER to send a registered letter to Acorn Accounting regarding termination with a final date for return of all GSS property of August 23, 2021.**

## CLOSING ITEMS

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### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: FOSTER reported that the Victoria Regional Transit Committee has made a seat available for the GSS on their student advisory committee. We will elect a representative at another time. FOSTER expressed interest in running for the committee.

Director of Communications: KENT no report.

Director of Finance: KHAN is focused on Management Hiring and Bookkeeper Hiring. The next area of focus for him will be collective bargaining preparation with Turner.

Director of Services: NG reported that registration for the Pecha Kucha event this month. The Appeals Committee met to resolve one appeal and meet Glenda, the new Health and Dental Coordinator.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI met with Student Wellness Centre to discuss how we can support student mental health. Safari has discussed the unique pressures of graduate school compared to the undergraduate experience with them to better prepare SWC staff to serve our members.

Executive Director: TURNER noted that for the week of August 16-20, she and Glenda will be the only staff working as both Karen and Neil are out on vacation. Turner will be focused on training Glenda and bookkeeper onboarding and transition work during that week, so there will be a slow down on other work.

#### NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

None.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

**\*\*Task Reminder:** Please be sure your meetings and events are up to date on the GRC Connect Calendar\*\*

Next Executive Meeting: August 25, 2021, 1:30pm

GRC Meetings: September 28, 2021

AGM: October 26, 2021

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre staffed only when needed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: Adjournment of meeting at 3:41 p.m.*

*M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI*

*APPROVED by Consent*

KT/kt/klp

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David Foster  
GSS Chair 2021-22

X

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Kyla Turner  
Executive Director