

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED

MAY 10, 2022

EXECUTIVE INVITED: Summer OKIBE, Chair; Nahid Pourdolat SAFARI, Director of Student Affairs; Wyatt MADDOX, Director of Services; Robert BICKLEY, Director of Finance; Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

GUESTS: Jim DUNSDON, UVIC AVP Student Affairs

ABSENT: Nicole KENT, Director of Communications

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 with BICKLEY in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by MADDOX. BICKLEY invited all board members to take a moment to reflect on their relationship to the lands that they are on.

C. ICE BREAKER

What is the book you recommend to others the most?

Board members shared their favourite fiction books, as well as meaningful and engaging non-fiction that challenged them.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved with an amendment to focus on COVID town hall planning over annual planning.

M/S: OKIBE/MADDOX

CARRIED

BOARD TRAINING

1. ADVOCACY SKILLS TRAINING

For discussion: What makes for effective advocacy? What kinds of leverage does the GSS have and how can we use it? Where is more effective to partner with organizations or stand in opposition to them?

NEW BUSINESS

1. JIM DUNSDON'S MAGICAL INTRO TO GSS-UVIC RELATIONS

[DUNSDON arrived at 2:00pm]

For Discussion

DUNSDON began with an offer for support directly from his office if board members need help in onboarding and transitioning to a new role.

DUNSDON pointed out that the regular standing meetings between UVic and the student societies are unique to UVic. His overview of the meetings was:

Operational Relations is chaired by the GSS and therefore we can set the agenda. It is attended by senior leadership and managers. Urgent issues can be addressed in special meetings as needed. Meetings typically begin in July. Previous agenda items include Climate Sustainability, COVID Safety, Policy Development, Campus Planning, and student consultations.

Exec to Exec includes the President and VPs with a few AVPs. Exec to Exec meets 4-5 times per year with the first meeting in September. These meetings focus on high level issues such as the provincial funding review, the province's new accessibility act and UVic's new strategic plan. Graduate funding lobbying to the province is a frequent issue addressed in this space.

[DUNSDON left meeting at 2:22pm]

Following DUNSDON's departure, board members noted that they felt there was strong alignment between GSS and UVic goals for this year that supports a more collaborative advocacy approach for the year. TURNER recommended planning out when in the year to address each systemic issue (e.g. address housing in summer before the rush of students arrive in Fall, except UVic staff attention to be eaten up by the province's funding review after September starts, etc.)

2. COVID SAFETY TOWN HALL PLANNING/DEBRIEF

Lead: Wyatt MADDIX

For Discussion

Town Hall meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 5-6pm.

Special bulletin requested for Thursday May 12 and circulation to GRC list serv, Grad sec. list, socials to promote the event.

Recommendations: For GRC motion: allow for in-person meetings, no mask mandate. For the town hall: allow adequate discussion time. Allow the equity issue to arise from the audience first and then respond with equity for all means multiple access points.

Key board positions: We are the last place to have mandatory masking that puts pressure on staff and puts us out of line with the rest of the campus community. We need to focus on creating capacity for rapid adaptability around safety plans, hybrid delivery.

TASK: TURNER to set up meeting and invite, TURNER to circulate powerpoint with edits for feedback. All board members asked to provide feedback by Friday, May 13.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the April 26, 2022 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: MADDOX/BICKLY

CARRIED

F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

TASKS completed:

April 19, 2022: TURNER to start email chain with the entire board regarding annual planning that includes examples of past plans and suggestions for how to formulate the current plan.

April 26, 2022: TASK: TURNER to circulate an email to all board members to schedule a town hall planning meeting.

TASK: TURNER to send agreed upon questions for VP Finance and Operations interviews to OKIBE.

TASK: TURNER to communicate with Jim Dunsdon's office regarding Operational Relations meeting on May 10, 2022.

G. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: RESOLVED to accept Nahid SAFARI's resignation from the VP RAC committee and ratify Nicole KENT to said committee.

M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY

CARRIED

H. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Alliance of BC Students (ABCS) Invitation to attend lobbying planning date

Discussion:

Board members expressed concerns around timing and capacity to attend this training. MADDOX is not available. SAFARI and BICKLEY felt they may not be able to participate as effectively as other board members. TURNER recommended waiting to see the full agenda and cost, then sending 1-2 board members if the cost of training is reasonable and the agenda of issues to be discussed aligns with GSS priorities for the current year.

TASK: TURNER to circulate full ABCS Lobbying Skills Training Day invite upon arrival for further consideration around sending 1-2 board members to attend virtually.

I. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

1. OPERATIONAL RELATIONS

SAFARI recommended bringing the issue of on-campus housing around:

1. Paint colour and creating inviting, lively spaces

2. Renovation planning as there are significant differences between recently renovated suites and suites that have not been renovated.

3. Suite cleanliness and cleanings between tenants

BICKLEY recommended bringing these to Operations Relations as a matter of livability.

TURNER recommended bringing the issues around renovation planning and suite cleanings between tenants to Operational Relations with a request that Facilities provide information on how suite renovations are prioritized, the standards of cleanliness maintained between tenants, and the appropriate resolution pathway to report concerns. TURNER further recommended bringing the issue of paint colour directly to Residence with possible recommendations around repainting or residents being allowed and encouraged to jointly redecorate shared spaces in a non-permanent way on an annual basis.

These items will be discussed further ahead of the first Operational Relations meeting when the full OR agenda is set.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: OKIBE reported that her meetings with the VP Finance and Operations candidates were productive and she sent in recommendations for a preferred candidate to the hiring committee.

Director of Finance: BICKLEY has been trying to conceive of a work plan for the Finance Committee but feels he can make more of a difference by supporting other portfolios and board members' work. BICKLEY requests that if board members have issues that require financial support from the GSS that they loop in the Finance Committee.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Motion: BIRT to approve the in-camera minutes from XYZ dates.

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 Meetings: May 24, 2022 – OKIBE to chair. Land acknowledgement by BICKLEY

Next GRC Meeting: June 21, 2022

AGM: October 25, 2022

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 3:29

M/S: MADDOX/SAFARI

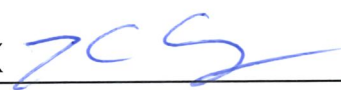
CARRIED

X



Summer Okibe
GSS Chair 2022-23

X



Kyla Turner
Executive Director