

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

**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)

**GUEST:** Neil BARNEY, Operations and Service Manager (partial)

### STANDING ITEMS

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A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:31PM with FOSTER in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by KENT.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved with an addition to correspondence from KENT and an addition of one item of new business: ICAT training scheduling.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

*APPROVED by Consent*

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the February 15, 2022 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

*APPROVED by Consent*

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

*Motion: RESOLVED graduate student representatives are elected to the following UVic committees:*

- 2021-22 Faculty of Social Sciences Awards and Recognition Committee – 1 member in Social Sciences

*Nominations: Member elected:*

- 2021-22 Faculty of Social Sciences Dean's Advisory Forum on Indigenization – 1 member in Social Sciences

*Nominations: Member elected:*

*TABLED*

## G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. [Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training re: Here2Talk; Here2Talk Winter 2022 Campaign Kit](#)
2. Dean Robin Hicks re: Graduate Student Space Survey
3. UVic Pride re: Next Calls to Action Against Transphobia Meeting
4. KENT's request to conduct research with GSS members from September 2022 to August 2023

*Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

### DISCUSSION:

KENT provided an overview of the research she is hoping to conduct with GSS members around graduate students experience around online teaching and transitions back to in-person instruction. This research would be conducted on a voluntary basis. KENT would need the GSS to provide documentation stating that the research is strictly voluntary. TURNER noted that KENT's candidacy to the 2022-23 Director of Communications is uncontested and that KENT should be expected to continue in the Director of Communications role. KENT confirmed that this work would not be conducted as part of her role as Director of Communications and would be in addition to her stipended board work. KENT stated that she would include such a disclosure in her ethics disclosures for the research as a matter of routine.

*APPROVED by Consent*

**TASK: FOSTER to correspond with Andrew Coward, Treasurer, regarding availability of graduate work space on UVic campus.**

**TASK: TURNER and SAFARI to attend UVic Pride meeting on Calls to Action Against Transphobia.**

**TASK: FOSTER to compose support letters addressed to the government of Trinidad necessary for KENT's research project with GSS members for the 2022-23 academic year.**

## H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

### 1. OPERATIONAL RELATIONS FEBRUARY 16, 2022

#### Discussion:

FOSTER to forward housing and funding agenda items from this meeting to the March Exec to Exec meeting.

### 2. GRC FEBRUARY 22, 2022

#### Discussion:

FOSTER felt engagement was strong around the issue of workspace available to members.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. LETTER TO MLA RE: MSP PETITION

REF DOC: [MSP Letter to MLA Coralee Oakes](#)

*Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors approves the attached letter to Coralee Oakes, MLA and Official Opposition critic for Advanced Education, Skills Training and Sport requesting her assistance to table the petition calling for elimination of international student MSP premiums in the Legislative Assembly.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

*APPROVED by Consent*

## 2. STATEMENT ON UKRAINE

REF DOC: [GSS Statement on Ukraine](#)

*Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors approves the attached GSS statement on Ukraine for publication on the Society's website.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

Discussion:

TURNER recommended specifically stating that the GSS condemns the actions of the Russian government in invading Ukraine, encouraging members to contact all their government representatives, rather than just Members of Parliament, and to include a recommendation to show support for divestment from fossil fuels and support the investment in renewable energies to reduce the political power of oil rich, autocratic nations. FOSTER supports the condemnation of the Russian government and the change of language around government representatives. However, FOSTER felt calls for divestment and support for renewable energy was outside the scope of this letter.

SAFARI asked for the letter to be shared on social media.

*APPROVED by Consent with KHAN's abstention noted.*

## 3. ACADEMIC UNIT GRANTS

**Invited guest:** Neil BARNEY, Operations and Services Manager

[BARNEY arrived at 2:10pm and left at 2:41pm]

REF DOC: [2022-23 Academic Unit Grant Application Form DRAFT](#)

*Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors approves the 2022-23 Academic Unit Grant Application Form.*

*M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI*

Discussion:

FOSTER provided an overview of changes he is recommending to the Academic Unit Grant.

TURNER recommended increasing base funding as it would constitute a significant drop in special project funding for academic units with fewer than 200 students, which is the majority of the student groups who use the funding. BARNEY agreed that changing core funding limits for special projects, including colloquia, guest speakers, student publications.

FOSTER recommended either increasing base funding and reducing the per student top up or putting a minimum enrolment requirement for funding levels. BARNEY pointed out that smaller academic units are less well funded and may not have access to the kinds of projects possible with this funding if the proposed changes go into effect.

FOSTER recommended the removal of requirement for an academic unit to have an active GRC rep as all students pay into the academic unit grant and not all members have access to this funding. TURNER and BARNEY noted that this requirement was used as an incentive to get more academic units engaged at GRC and that there was no other incentive on the table at the moment, which could impact GRC recruitment.

FOSTER and TURNER noted support for allowing multiple academic units to apply for joint special projects. TURNER recommended splitting the grant applications into two different grant streams: Special Projects and AU Association Support to reduce confusion for applicants.



FOSTER recommended the addition of cannabis purchases and activities promoting partisan, political, religious causes to the list of ineligible expenses.

*Motion: RESOLVED to table this motion to the March 15, 2022 board meeting.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

*TABLED to the March 15, 2022 board meeting.*

**TASK: BARNEY to look into the use rates of the academic unit grants 2015-21 versus academic unit size to determine the funding level changes with the proposed changes to the funding structure of the Academic Unit Grant.**

#### 4. SAGM TASK LIST

**TASKS: All board members to upload their reports for the SAGM to Connect by March 14, 2022.**

**SAFARI and NG to take registration at the SAGM. TURNER to track quorum during SAGM.**

**SAFARI to monitor the chat at the SAGM.**

**TURNER to create and monitor polls at the SAGM.**

**KENT to provide a land acknowledgement at the SAGM.**

**TURNER to introduce guest speaker and deliver the speaker's gift.**

**KENT to Chair meeting during Bylaw Changes and Student Advocate Fund TOR agenda item.**

**FOSTER to rotate slides during the break.**

**TURNER to schedule a meeting between FOSTER, Chris JONES, Electoral Officer, Karen POTTS, Office/Governance Coordinator, and TURNER regarding the electoral events to occur at the SAGM.**

#### 5. SCHEDULING – BOARD TRANSITION

For discussion

Draft Schedule of Board Transition Events:

Board/Staff meetings from last year:

- 1 hour – GSS Governance 101 (March 31, 10-11am)
- 1 hour – GSS Board Duties and Finance 101 (March 31, 11am-12pm)

Board to Board meetings:

- 1.5 hours – Board Strategy Session (March 30, 5-6:30pm)
- TBD – 1-1 meetings between incoming and outgoing directors in each position
- 2 hours – Executive Board meeting March 31, 1:30-3:30pm

**TASKS: KHAN, NG, FOSTER to schedule their one-on-one training sessions with their successors for late March 2022.**

**TURNER to send meeting invites for Board transition meetings.**

#### 6. SCHEDULING – ICAT TRAINING

**TASK: FOSTER to confirm ICAT training on March 14, 1-3pm at First People's House and circulate invite to GRC.**

#### 7. ICE BREAKER

Completed with thanks to FOSTER!

## 8. IN CAMERA SESSION

- a) Personnel

### CLOSING ITEMS

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#### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: FOSTER is sitting on an AVP search committee that is getting ready for interviews. Additionally working to wrap up projects for BPC.

Director of Communications: KENT EQHR committee is currently on hiatus until Summer due to lack of attendance. KENT recommended promoting this committee's work to GRC. Additionally working on social media presence for Communications committee.

Director of Finance: KHAN no report.

Director of Services: NG no report.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI no report.

Executive Director: TURNER noted that Halpern Centre is open to the public. We are looking forward to our first in-person event on Wednesday for the Wednesday Walk.

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

#### 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: March 15, 2022

GRC Meetings: April 19, 2022

SAGM: March 22, 2022

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre re-opened to the public February 28, 2022.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

*APPROVED by Consent*

*KT/kt*

X



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David Foster  
GSS Chair 2021-22

X



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Kyla Turner  
Executive Director

