

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

APRIL 19, 2023

EXECUTIVE PRESENT:

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;

Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications and Vice Chair;

Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;

Lindsay BEAL; Director of Student Affairs;

Mitch NASCIMENTO, Director of Services;

TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

GUESTS: Greg Melnechuck, CUPE 4163 President; Hannah BROWN, Work Study Student

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:30 by MADDOX.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory acknowledgement offered by FIELDER. He recommended looking at the [whose.land](https://www.whose.land) website for learning more about the land acknowledgements, treaties, and history of treaty formation. For example, the land we worked on today is governed by the Douglas treaties.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: GAUBE/FIELDER

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. TRAINING: GSS 101: FINANCES

Lead: TURNER

Reference: GSS Finances for new board members powerpoint

For: Discussion

TURNER provided a brief overview of GSS finances in terms of where our money and debts are, how we generate revenue, our fund structures, and current areas of financial risk.

2. WORK STUDY CHECK IN

Lead: TURNER

Guest: BROWN

Reference Docs: None

Discussion:

BROWN requested specifics formatting on the report to be made to the board at the April 26 board meeting. GAUBE requested floor plans and costs.

NASCIMENTO asked about geographic locations that have been investigated. BROWN clarified that they have been looking into Canadian contexts and ASHRAFKHANI-LIMOUEHI has been focused on the global context.

GAUBE asked for the accessibility suite size and distribution (especially comparing to the non-accessible option.) NASCIMENTO asked BROWN for any individual opinions they had formed while a resident on UVic campus. BROWN noted that cost and availability were the key reasons they left residence.

BROWN requested 30 minutes in the next meeting for their presentation.

[BROWN attended 10:45-11:00]

3. RA LEGAL STATUS CAMPAIGN PLANNING

Lead: GAUBE

Guest: Greg MELNECHUK, CUPE 4163 President

Reference: Previous legal opinions

For: Discussion

GAUBE prefaced our discussion by centring the conversation on planning for a union card drive in the Fall 2023 semester. National CUPE is engaged in this conversation. The previous attempt to do a card drive was not successful due to the member organizing side of work and the difficulties in engaging RAs as they are so spread out across campus. Marlowe Evans has been hired as a member organizer [they also work in the Grad House and were on the TA bargaining team.] MELNECHUK was encouraged by the connections being formed by the two end of term parties that took place at the Grad House in April.

MELNECHUK brought forward that UVic is fairly compact, which works in our favour for finding RAs both on and off campus. The first step will be finding all the RAs and volunteers across campus. There is a 90 day card drive limit and we need 50% plus one of RAs to sign. We may wish to start at the Welcome Back BBQ (tentatively booked for September 13). That start date allows us to end at the end of term parties for a final push for card signatures. We will also use orientation events to engaged members and gather contact information.

TURNER asked when and how to disclose unionization plans during orientations. MELNECHUK suggested "going public" in September. MELNECHUK clarified that organizing could not happen on TA work time through TA orientations, but the GSS goes into the departments for all student orientations. MELNECHUK brought up bringing in volunteers to Wednesday Coffee to sign cards. MELNECHUK will confer with CUPE organizers about best practices. UBC was quite open about their unionization.

MELNECHUK suggested more information comparing RAs and TAs in the handbook. TURNER offered that that information could go in without cost to CUPE 4163. FIELDER asked CUPE to develop graphics and shareable information. FIELDER requested consistent branding because we are targeting such a broad audience.

MELNECHUK noted that CUPE4163 is an education local and can be doing a lot of that information sharing work.

GAUBE noted that we should be promoting this especially to international students as a source of job protections and benefits. MELNECHUK noted that sharing RA horror stories on social media.

BEAL asked for MELNECHUK's opinions on the nation GEU strike impacting a union card drive. MELNECHUK felt it was too early to tell.

NASCIMENTO asked about engaging UVSS. The team felt that asking for message boosting and using UVSS spaces, but maintaining control of the campaign to CUPE and GSS may yield the best results.

MELNECHUK recommended volunteer recruitment as a key activity for the Summer for the GSS, especially with departments that have not been engaged thus far (especially outside STEM).

[MELNECHUK attended 11:00-11:50]

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the April 12, 2023 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: GAUBE/NASCIMENTO

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

No tasks completed abandoned or revoked noted.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Grad Student Walk Out

Item 2: University Secretary re: Appointment Committees

Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received.

M/S: GAUBE/FIELDER

CARRIED

TASK: TURNER to connect with Laurel Collins office to book a meeting at 10:00am on April 25, 2023 with MADDOX and BEAL on the matter of the graduate funding in the Federal Budget 2023.

MADDOX to communicate with Robin HICKS office about a walk out on the quad on May 1 for a photo op.

TURNER to request a meeting with USec office to discuss the full extent of concerns around student engagement on hiring committees with MADDOX and FIELDER.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting Debrief: Operations Relations Apr 19 meeting
This debrief occurred immediately after the Operational Meeting.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX reported on the FGS Executive Council on May 11. The Federal Budget was discussed as a key area for advocacy on a national level. FGS is also planning a review of the Supervision Policy. Currently they are setting up an asynchronous course on supervision.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Notice of agenda item: Jim Dunsdon to present an overview of Operational Relations and Exec to Exec meeting
Notice of agenda item: Director, Student Wellness Centre to meet with board regarding health and wellness services and opportunities for collaboration

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: April 26, 2023

Next GRC Meeting: April 25, 2023

AGM: October 19, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre to close on Monday, April 24 for a staff training day. TURNER out on vacation May 15-25. BARNEY out on vacation May 29-June 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.

M/S: NASCIMENTO/GAUBE

CARRIED/FAILED

KT

X 

Wyatt MADDOX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director