

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 7, 2023

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;
Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;
Lindsay BEAL; Director of Student Affairs;
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

REGRETS: Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications and Vice Chair;
Mitch NASCIMENTO, Director of Services;

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:15 by MADDOX.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgment offered by MADDOX.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: BEAL/FIELDER

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. GRC AGENDA DEVELOPMENT

Reference: June 27, 2023 GRC Agenda Draft

For: Discussion

BEAL, FIELDER, MADDOX, and TURNER proposed agenda items for GRC and agreed to approve the agenda via email so GAUBE and NASCIMENTO can see the materials before circulation to GRC.

2. HEALTH PLAN RENEWAL UPDATE

Lead: TURNER

For: Discussion

TURNER provided an update that the insurance premiums are going to slightly decrease for the GSS Health and Dental plan from September 2023 to August 2024. There will be no change to the fees we charge members, and the small additional revenue generated will be used to offset future premium cost increases.

Additionally, our Health and Dental Coordinator, Glenda Beecham, has given notice that she will be resigning her job in late September/early October. To facilitate training and on/off-boarding, we will be hiring Glenda's successor early for late August for a fulsome transition period through our busiest season.

FIELDER and BEAL requested that we take a proposal to add HPV vaccines and increased dental coverage to the June 9 meeting with AON.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the May 24, 2023 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: BEAL/FIELDER

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

No reports.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: BIR to elect the following members to the following committees:

Committee: Student Life Grant Committee

Irfan received an email from Lily Han and she mentioned the time commitment for Student Life Grant Committee is pretty minimal, namely a 2-hour meeting every two months, with about 1-2 hours prep (ie. reviewing applications) involved for each meeting.

Decision: Student Life Grant Committee sent to GRC for election.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No correspondence received.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

No planning or debriefing work done in this section of the agenda.

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

FIELDER provided an overview of the May 31 annual planning meeting that BEAL had to miss due to family care obligations. FIELDER, BEAL, and MADDOX discussed how and when to present materials to GRC.

BEAL wants the GRC to beta-test a list of resources for students on food security and sovereignty during the July GRC meeting, with a brief introduction during the June GRC meeting.

BEAL noted that breaking down silos through Student Affairs work and bringing together the available support/volunteer engagement resources at the GSS (for example, Global Communities, Student Wellness Centre, etc.) as part of the Annual Plan, especially through increasing January orientation events.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX will be very busy over June and requests the Board use WhatsApp for connection throughout the month for urgent matters. Otherwise, his response rate will decrease until his field work and conferences are done.

BPC is meeting to discuss bylaw amendments and will recommend them to the board, GRC and AGM before the end of summer. Thanks to Barbara Clearihue for all her work on that!

MADDOX has also approved a new BPC workflow chart to improve their efficiency and reduce the number of policies/bylaws that circulate through BPC without approval for change. Additionally, it will provide better supporting materials for committee transitions.

Director of Finance: FIELDER met with TURNER last week of Fin Com annual plans for policy updates. FIELDER has scheduled Finance Committee and they will be meeting shortly. FIELDER is also in communication with Vancity regarding our credit cards. (Because Sam is TURNER's absolute hero. Thanks, Sam!)

Director of Student Affairs: BEAL has been addressing a complex student case over the last month with TURNER on supervision. BEAL, TURNER and other UVic allies, such as the Society for Students with a Disability, all wrote support letters for this case.

BEAL submitted a lightning talk to the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies conference in Victoria in November.

Executive Director: TURNER has been addressing two student cases with Neil BARNEY, MADDOX and BEAL. Thank you for all your work here! The three cases we've seen in the last six weeks have all been around supervisory relationships and speak to an intense need for revisions to the Graduate Supervision Policy. TURNER will be meeting with Dean of Faculty of Graduate Studies "casually" later this month to discuss these issues systemically.

Work Study application for the Peer Support Worker has been submitted.

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 Teams Calendar**

Next Executive Meetings: June 21, 2023 – MADDOX may be unavailable.

Next GRC Meeting: June 27, 2023

AGM: October 24, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 11:50.

M/S: BEAL/FIELDER

CARRIED

KT

X 

Wyatt MADDOX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director
