

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

# Graduate Representative Council

## (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 27, 2023, 5-7 PM

Elected Academic Unit Reps Present (1 vote per academic unit) Invited (as of June 7, 2023):

<b>Anthropology:</b> Rachel Hooton	<b>Amer Kumar, Anushka Singh</b>	<b>Pacific and Asian Studies:</b> Delaney Johnson, Iván Garcimartín Carmona
<b>Art History and Visual Studies:</b> Megan Austin	<b>English:</b> Lucie Kotěšovská	<b>Physics and Astronomy:</b> Jade Fischer, Jamal Muhammad Khani
<b>Biochemistry &amp; Microbiology:</b> Ladan Kalani, Loc Ngo	<b>Environmental Studies:</b> Lauren Burton	<b>Political Science:</b> Katy Rosnau, Marlowe Evans
<b>Biology:</b> Talen Rimmer	<b>French:</b> Cédric Trahan	<b>Psychology:</b> Cian Dabrowski
<b>Business:</b> Ethan Sun	<b>Geography:</b> Kali McDougall	<b>Public Administration:</b> Kalpana Jha
<b>Civil Engineering:</b> David Serrano Suarez, Prakriti Raizada	<b>Greek and Roman Studies:</b> Alix Galumbeck	<b>Public Health &amp; Social Policy:</b> Zachary Derrick
<b>Curriculum and Instruction:</b> Yi Qian, Denneisha Griffin-Pinnock	<b>Health Information Science:</b> Dee Dee Wong, Evangeline Wagner	<b>Social Dimensions of Health:</b> Olvie Li
<b>Earth &amp; Ocean Sciences:</b> Moronke Harris	<b>Law:</b> Kirsty Broadhead	<b>Sociology:</b> Tyler Branston, Hossein Rahmati
<b>Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies:</b> Weiyi Liu, Sindhu Merwin	<b>Medical Sciences/Neuroscience:</b> Kamal Narayana	<b>Theatre:</b> Barbara Clerihue
<b>Electrical and Computer Engineering:</b>	<b>Music:</b> Sean Kiley	<b>CUPE 4163:</b> Kaitlyn Diederichs
	<b>Nursing:</b> Lorilee Scott	

GSS Executive Board (1 vote per elected Board member) Present:

<b>Chair:</b> Wyatt Maddox	<b>Director of Services:</b> Mitch Nascimento
<b>Director of Communications:</b> Greg Gaube	<b>Director of Student Affairs:</b> Lindsay Beal
	<b>Executive Director:</b> Kyla TURNER (non-voting)

**Recorder:** Irfan Tanveer, GSS Governance Coordinator

Regrets Received:

**Director of Finance:** Samuel Fielder  
**Art History and Visual Studies:** Sarah Roberts,  
**Biology:** Sarah Lane,  
**Chemistry:** Harvey Mackenzie  
**Computer Science:** Andrea Nguyen  
**Linguistics:** Rosemary Webb

Absent without Regrets:

Denneisha Griffin  
Moronke Harris  
Sindhu Mervin  
Zackery Derrick  
Lucie Kotesovska  
Talen Rimmer  
Ladan Kalani  
Rachel Hooton  
Kali McDougall  
Tyler Branston  
Olvie Li

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## CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by MADDOX at 5:00 pm

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today's personal land acknowledgement will be provided by MADDOX.

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## STANDING ITEMS

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### A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*MOTION: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.*

*M/S: Executive Board/ FISCHER*

*CARRIED*

### B. TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER

Today's timekeeper was: SAFARI

### C. MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE

**GSS Membership:** As of May 30, 2023, the GSS has 2659 members.

**Meeting Quorum:** With 11 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 13.

**Meeting Guests:** Any non-voting reps or co-reps? Please identify yourself so we can welcome you!

**Welcome to new GRC reps:**

### D. CHAIR'S REMARKS

MADDOX updated GRC on the goings-on of the Executive Board. We discussed agenda items, including committee reviews, supervisory matters, and preparations for the Food for GRC meeting in the fall. The administrative staff is currently focused on preparing for the upcoming season and working on individual cases. It was noted that the summer period is generally a low-intensity time for the board. Additionally, it was mentioned that there will be changes in restaurant hours during the fall.

### A. GRC COMMITTEE, ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS, UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Appeals: NASCIMENTO  
Discussed that FIELDER led the appeal meetings and have 4 appeals out of which 3 were resolved effectively.
- Bylaw & Policy: MADDOX
- MADDOX discussed CLERIHUE's work and mentioned that changes have been made to the by-laws, many of which are semantic and involve language modifications. These changes will be presented to GRC soon.
- Communications: GAUBE  
SARAH discussed about the marketing events and talked about the work on handouts.
- Events: NASCIMENTO  
Few things coming up in July, discussed about painting guide night and \$20 per person which is quite low and will be running by CASSIDY and the event is on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Bingo on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Marker and market on July 7<sup>th</sup> during lunch

Knitting on July 12<sup>th</sup>

Barbe movie marathon on July 20<sup>th</sup> and hopefully encourages folks to watch barbe movie which is recently released.

August will have bike and hike to beaver lake.

Hike up to mount dough in September.

Outside of that orientation planning going on

MADDOX asked if we are participating in the pride parade and Mitch responded by say we will be attending, and more info will be available on the Instagram.

- Finance: FIELDER  
Annual plan for the remainder of the year, specifically building, student advocacy funds,
- Student Affairs: BEAL  
BEAL mentioned the initial meeting was postponed and BEAL will bring about meeting agendas later in the meeting.
- Stipend Review: GALUMBECK  
Grading reports and impressed by the board members and appreciate their work. Currently they are discussing about formatting and style. Coming up the solution as we transition to MS Teams
- Electoral Officer: BURTON  
No report
  
- Conduct Committee: TBA

#### E. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS

*MOTION: RESOLVED the following GSS members are excused from the 2022-23 Standing Committees accordingly:*

*MOTION: RESOLVED the 2022-23 GRC reps are appointed to the GRC Standing Committees as follows:*

#### F. OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS

LEAD: MADDOX AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Common issue that are relevant with supervision.

MADDOX gave an example of how his supervisor responds to him based on either responds instantly or weeks after.

BURTON discussed about the leave application and mentioned that signing off the application is just heads up and not gate keeper and supervisor are not able to stop you.

ROBERTS mentioned about the FGS council and UVic was less gate keeping about the formal leave and is apologetic about it. Further she said there is a research proposal from her department and heard a lot from students from her departments that not enough time or resources are provided further even ROBERTS said there is evidence of bullying has been profoundly happening.

MADDOX mentioned that student should not be quite about their problems and if the department never receives this issue, then we would not be aware of it, and we won't be able to advocate for our peer. Please if you are facing such intense situation then please free to refer the student to GSS.

BURTON said recording meeting is legal in Canada and NASCIMENTO said that it will not help you a lot in legal proceedings further NASCIMENTO further clarified about who to show recording to. BURTON replied by saying recording evidence is purely for student themselves.

BREAK

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

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## 1. KEY SUPERVISION CONCERNS

Lead: TURNER

What are the most common supervision issues students in your department see? The GSS is looking for key areas to focus advocacy to the Faculty of Graduate Studies about supervision on.

### DISCUSSION:

Kyla discussed about her concern and she implying to address with Robin Hicks and since her last meeting with him, Hick mentioned that he would be able to open about supervision policy changes. MADDOX mentioned to students to feel free to use the reports or reach out to TURNER about your issues and especially when it comes to supervision.

## 2. GRC FOOD IN THE FALL

Lead: MADDOX

Reference: GRC June reports

For: Decision

GRC Food for Fall, for summer we have buffet style includes, Pork Siomai, kitchree and salads. MADDOX is open to more option especially absolutely. NASCIMENTO said a drink ticket with an ability to order at the Grad House.

FIELDER said he would like to have the restaurant to be opened.

TURNER said that the ultimate decision lies with the operation manager.

MADDOX said we could have alternated buffet.

## 3. HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN UPDATE

Lead: TURNER

For: Discussion

Good news! There is no cost increase for the GSS Health and Dental insurance plans for the 2023-24 for the second year in a row.

### DISCUSSION:

TURNER explained about no cost increase in health and dental insurance for the second year now. TURNER is working on negotiating with insurance company to add more coverage such as Vaccines. Update will be coming up in the end of July.

## 4. WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW DAY ONE AS A GRAD STUDENT?

Lead: MADDOX

For: Discussion

Help us build better orientations! Tell us what you wish you had known.

### DISCUSSION:

JOHNSON said if the students would know about the bicycle HUB.

BURTON asked repeatedly to be speaker and kept being denied, he does have a list that will be helpful to find that new students would like to know.

ROBERTS said if the location and maps are more easily accessible.

Housing availability

FISCHER said syllabus availability before first day of class.

Orientation for graduate students

Emphasize on how know your graduate secretary is crucial says BURTON.

## 5. FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY RESOURCE LIST

Lead: BEAL

For: Discussion

DISCUSSION:

BEAL found about food share network and GSS one isn't organized as better, and BEAL recommended that GRC can look at and give feedback on it. Resources were available on power point presentation build by MADDOX.

BEAL further discussed about the how important is it to respond to hunger after analyzing how many people are unable to access food.

Further BEAL talked about how student can access food apart from food bank and she said about community garden.

BEAL vouch that student affair committee is considering getting a GSS plot, along with the event committee.

BEAL said further discussion about her student affair committee which will be happening on Thursday.

JOHNSON said you can submit a claim to society of disability for students per semester for items that are important to nourish you body.

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## STANDING ITEMS 2 AND CLOSING ITEMS

### B. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES

LEAD: MADDOX

Open Floor to hear any reports from graduate student representatives on:

- Board of Governors:
- Senate: name

- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council: name
- UVic Advisory Committees: name
- UVic Award Committees: name
- UVic Search and Hiring Committees: ROBERTS, respond about why she wasn't responded from the committee.
- UVic Faculty Committees: name

Note: Reps are encouraged to submit short written reports to [gssgov@uvic.ca](mailto:gssgov@uvic.ca) for inclusion in the minutes.

G. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES – VACANCIES

LEAD: TANVEER

As per GSS Bylaws, Grad Councillors are asked to sit on at least one UVic Committee to ensure graduate student interests are represented. There are currently 7 vacancies to be filled. For information on each committee please see the GSS webpage: <https://gss.uvic.ca/about-gss/get-involved/committees/grad-representation-at-uvic/>

*MOTION: RESOLVED the following graduate student representatives are elected to the following UVic committees, accordingly:*

*Student Life Grant Committee: LINDSEY BEAL*

*Senate Committee on Academic Standards (1 position) JADE FISCHER*

*Senate Committee on Appeals (1 position) JEFFERY BURTON*

*Senate Committee on Awards (1 position) SARAH ROBERTS*

*Senate Committee on Continuing Studies (1 position) JEFFREY BURTON*

*Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching (1 position) NAHID SAFARI*

*Senate Committee on Libraries (1 position) SAM FEILDER*

*M/S: FIELDER/JOHNSSON*

*CARRIED*

H. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

*MOTION: RESOLVED the Minutes of the February 28, 2023 GRC meeting are approved as presented [OR approved with minor corrections as provided].*

*M/S: FISCHER/BURTON*

*CARRIED*

I. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/PAST MEETINGS

LEAD: MADDOX

If you, or your committee, were assigned a task at a previous meeting, please provide an update. This is also the time for Councillors to ask follow-up questions on previously assigned tasks and motions.

J. EXECUTIVE BOARD STIPEND REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO ACCEPT

LEAD: WAGNER

REF DOCS: Executive Board Reports Folder

Councillors are required to read the Executive Board reports (REF DOC on Connect) prior to the meeting.

*MOTION: RESOLVED the Executive Board Reports for May 2023 from BEAL, NACIMENTO, FIELDER, MADDOX and GAUBE are approved as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.*

*M/S: SRC/CLERIHUE*

C. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION

LEAD: MADDOX

Opportunity for any GRC member participating in a group or issue to request support or participation from other graduate students. Bring information about rallies, events, good information and resource links and be ready to post in the CHAT!

D. NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING

LEAD: MADDOX

Please see Appendix D for a GRC Agenda Item template.

E. IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS: CHECK YOUR GRC CONNECT HOMEPAGE CALENDAR!

LEAD: MADDOX

Next GRC Meeting: July 25, 2023

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of July 11, 2023
- Agenda to be posted: July 18, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes:

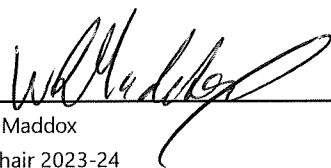
F. ADJOURNMENT

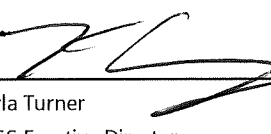
*MOTION: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.*

*M/S: JOHNSON/SAFARI*

*CARRIED*

*IT/KT*

X   
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 Wyatt Maddox  
 GSS Chair 2023-24

X   
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 Kyla Turner  
 GSS Executive Director