

2023-24 Student Affairs Committee Semi-Annual Report

March 19, 2024

Membership

Chair: Lindsay Beal

2023-24 members:

- Aleks Waliszewska
- Harvey MacKenzie
- Jonathan Qualter
- Lauren Burton
- Nabila Kazmi (Sep – Dec)
- Kyla Turner, ex-officio, non-voting
- Kiersten Schmidt (member at large)

A big thank you goes out to Kiersten Schmidt, who initiated the Lactation Friendly Campus project with an excellent brief and referral to Robert Lapper's Social Justice class. Thanks, also to Tara Cooper for her work in surveying the Psychology Department and facilitating the project with the law students.

A big thank you to the Climate Action Working Group and Jono for facilitating the upstart of the group.

Duties of the Committee

This committee is tasked with identifying, researching, and advocating issues of concern for graduate students. The committee also contributes strategies for the GSS Annual Plan and performs duties to implement the Annual Plan.

Overview of Work Completed

Lactation Friendly Campus Project: we presented the project idea to Robert Lapper's Social Justice class and received interest from a group of students, taking it on as a class project. Tara is working with the students who are developing a person-centred design for addressing the problem.

Climate Action Working Group has begun to meet in 2024 and have drafted the purpose and key activities for the coming academic year. To alleviate climate change stress through connection, inspirational stories, and opportunities for activities, the group will request room in the events planning for a monthly Show & Share discussion/gathering and a Climate Action Info Fair.

Overview of Incomplete and Outstanding Work

The Food Sovereignty Resource List was a great way to understand the interconnectedness of the Greater Victoria community involved in strengthening a food network. In this past year, UVic has implemented more opportunities to access meals, and this is one aspect of food sovereignty that has immediate, short term positive effect (longer when the access is meal sharing, due to the relationship building that happens). The list will likely become outdated and could use some formatting/categorizing into Production, Processing, Distribution, and Meal Sharing. There is potential for the Director of External Relations to liaise with these community groups to a) mentor/support student projects, b) advocate on behalf of students for UVic projects. The Director of Internal Relations might identify areas on campus, or departments where food sovereignty can be fostered. For example, the science of rooftop gardening is developing and as climate changes, the strategies must also change. Can the Green Roof on the David Turpin building be restored by trying a new strategy, such as a berry patch rooftop? Salad green window boxes or vertical hydroponics for each family housing unit or a netted nut grove, etc.