

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 6, 2024

Zoom Link: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/2244264481>

EXECUTIVE PRESENT:

Wyatt MADDUX, Chair;

Rosemary WEBB, Director of Internal/University Relations;

Jitendra PALAPARTY, Director of External Relations;

Maggie LAWTON, Director of Student Life;

Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

REGRETS: Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

MADDUX called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by WEBB. They demonstrated how to sign Indigenous Peoples in ASL.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: WEBB/LAWTON

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. NALOXONE ISSUE CHECK IN

Lead: TURNER

Reference: [Recap email from Kyla](#)

For: Discussion

Initial check-in re: becoming a distribution site for the Take Home Naloxone program. The union formally approved this idea this week.

There are three naloxone distribution sites on campus: the Student Wellness Centre is the parent site and responsible for all naloxone ordering and supplies for the satellite sites under them. Campus Security and the Campus Pharmacy are satellite sites. As of March 2024, none were functioning as distribution sites as supplies were either missing, insufficient, outdated, or not being given out to community members. We can become a satellite site under the SWC and TURNER can work with the SWC to assist in

their duties as a parent site to ensure naloxone and training supply availability on campus. TURNER has prepared our distribution site application and our first order for naloxone kits, restocking supplies for the outdated kits, and training supplies.

LAWTON and WEBB asked after admin workload for running a distribution site and the current functioning of the other distribution sites on campus. PALAPARTY noted that there may be other sources of naloxone on campus through unofficial sources. LAWTON expressed support for becoming a distribution site. PALAPARTY noted that there is a demand for naloxone training within Residence life. WEBB asked after burn out risks for GSS staff and how the Board and volunteers can assist.

Motion: The GSS will register as naloxone distribution site with TowardsTheHeart.

M/S: WEBB/LAWTON

CARRIED

TASK: TURNER to register the GSS as a naloxone distribution site with Island Health and TowardsTheHeart.

2. DRUG CHECKING AT THE SWC

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Advocacy Letter re: Drug Checking at the SWC

For: Decision

Does the board wish to formally support drug checking at the Student Wellness Centre?

UVic's own programs: Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) and Substance host drug checking in the North Park neighbourhood of Victoria. They are willing and able to bring drug checking to the SWC. The SWC is currently licensed to provide drug checking. Island Health is supportive of this program. However, work towards this new program has been slow. Can we express our support of this program to UVic, Island Health, SWC, CISUR, and the Province to see if community support can speed up the program getting off the ground?

DECISION: To send an advocacy letter to the Province, UVic, and Island Health regarding the availability of drug checking services on campus.

3. GORDON HEAD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Lead: PALAPARTY

For: Discussion

PALAPARTY gave an overview of the work of the Gordon Head Community Association, particularly municipal government advocacy, promotion of their own events and services, and liaising with UVic. The GHCA meetings are closed to the public, but they could offer the GSS a non-voting rotating seat at their board. The GSS also has the opportunity to become a voting member in the GHCA by buying a membership.

TURNER recommended against making any specific off-campus partnerships permanent as it leads to cascading scope creep within the work of the board. TURNER also cautioned the Board around corporate

memberships as we've had very large bills presented to us after being granted "free" membership in organizations.

WEBB asked after the role and scope of community associations. MADDOX provided an overview of their role and work.

MADDOX also noted that many municipalities are in the process of creating 10 year community housing plans and it might be the right time to get involved in the other organizations which will have influence over these plans.

DECISION: PALAPARTY to serve as our main member liaise with the Gordon Head Community Association.

4. REFERENDUM CHECK IN

Lead: MADDOX

For: Discussion

MADDOX provided an overview of the campaign process. PALAPARTY noted her extensive interpersonal contacts with members both as a campaign member and a board member. PALAPARTY recapped her work on the campaign.

MADDOX reflected on the planning process for referenda and noted that the next referenda will be in February/March.

TURNER asked for the board to approve a campaign package over the summer to include separate packages for elections/referenda and referenda alone.

LAWTON asked to create a "how to campaign" in the board manual and in the campaign package itself.

PALAPARTY asked for a timeline of events and activities to be included in the package.

LAWTON asked for clarity on the difference between campaigning and seeking endorsements.

TURNER asked how to better prepare the board for heavy work times and communicate expectations of what their work is.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented [OR with minor corrections as provided].

M/S: PALAPARTY/WEBB

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

Note: To ensure motion log is updated, ensure completed items are reported in the minutes.

Items assigned to board members that Kyla thinks are complete or abandoned will be listed below and highlighted in yellow. If there's an item you were assigned below highlighted in yellow, please confirm if the task was completed, revoked, or abandoned!

Tasks Completed/Decisions fully acted upon:

May 23: TASK: MADDOX AND WEBB to deliver a 10-15 minute orientation, focused on the needs of distance students, to the MA Community Development program at 2pm on May 29 in HSD A264.

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No committee appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Iranian Student Security Screening Email (appendix d) and Letter

Item 2: BC PNP Update (appendix d) and Letter

Item 3: GSSBC email (appendix d)

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: PALAPARTY/WEBB

CARRIED

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. May 28 GRC – debrief: Meeting cancelled due to lack of attendance.
Well done Jitendra for giving two campaign pitches!
WEBB asked after having an end-of-GRC term parties. PALAPARTY was in support. LAWTON recommended hosting in September as a big party is costly and time intensive for planning.

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX FGS Executive Council has not met in 3-4 months. The Supervision Policy working group is still ongoing and MADDOX is still accepting grad student feedback.

Director of Finance: FIELDER no report.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB the FGS Equity Survey is now live. Unfortunately there was insufficient time to provide impactful feedback on the questions. The survey is open until the 17th. GSAW planning is still moving forward. WEBB requested a meeting with MADDOX, PALAPARTY, and TURNER about the protest encampment.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY has been campaigning as much as she can, from poster- ing every building on campus, talking to grad students, interviewing with CFUV, advertising with the Martlet, etc.

Director of Student Life: LAWTON Events committee is working hard on summer and September planning.

Executive Director: TURNER reminded everyone that the front office will be closed to the public next week, while the Grad House restaurant will be open every day.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Notice of Agenda Item: Petri and Kyla to provide an overview of department orientations – June 18

Notice of agenda item: Responsible Investment Policy overview with Andrew Coward and Ray Aoki – June 18

NOTICE OF AGENDA ITEM (GRC in FALL): Meet and Greet with Subject Liaison Librarians and an intro to the Thesis Writing Intensive.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

****Task Reminder: Please be sure your meetings and events are up to date on OUTLOOK CALENDAR****

Next Executive Meetings: June 18, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: July 23, 2024

AGM: October 22, 2024


Office, Staff Scheduling: The GSS is closed to the public June 10-14 for records review.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 1:35pm.

M/S:

CARRIED

X 
Wyatt MADDUX
GSS Chair 2024-25

X 
Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1:

From: Justin Patrick <president@globalstudentgovernment.org>

Sent: May 22, 2024 5:19 AM

Subject: Iranian Students Need Your Help! (Losing Scholarships and Admission Offers Due to Visa Delays)

You don't often get email from president@globalstudentgovernment.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Student Governments of Canada,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Global Student Government, which represents millions of students across all inhabited continents. It has come to our attention that at least 58 Iranian students accepted to study in Canadian postsecondary programs have been experiencing a multi-year delay in getting visas to the point where, according to what they have told us, they are starting to lose their offers of admission and scholarships.

This has caused considerable hardship to these students while likely wasting both money of Canadian taxpayers and tuition money of students attending Canadian universities due to the bureaucratic costs for publicly-funded Canadian postsecondary institutions to evaluate these applications and send letters of offer.

We have begun lobbying Canadian Members of Parliament to inquire about the situation and to see if anything can be done to help the Iranian students. However, we need your help to raise awareness. We encourage you to contact your MP, post about the issue on social media, and share this email and attachments with student newspapers and relevant student organizations on your campus.

Attached here are two documents the students have prepared for us to share: the list of students impacted and the programs they were accepted to, as well as a document with their thoughts and details about their situations.

Any help or guidance you can provide would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or if there is anything else you need, you are welcome to contact me anytime.

Best,

Justin Patrick

President

Global Student Government (GSG)

Global HQ: Department of Political Science, Concordia University,

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Montréal, Québec, Canada, H3G 1M8

president@globalstudentgovernment.org | globalstudentgovernment.org | [LinkedIn](#)

Item 2: BC PNP

From: PNP Info MUNI:EX <PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: May 24, 2024 4:23 PM

To: PNP Info MUNI:EX <PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: BC PNP Graduate Stream Changes

Thank you for reaching out about the upcoming changes to the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP).

Updates to the BC PNP announced on March 14, 2024, will take effect on January 1, 2025, to create clearer pathways to immigrate to B.C. while updating the selection criteria. British Columbia will always value the contribution that international students bring to B.C. and will continue to have dedicated streams to help recent graduates of bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees apply to this program.

The Province of British Columbia can only nominate a set number of people as allocated by the federal government. The primary goal of the BC PNP is to address labour market needs and bolster British Columbia's economy and recent updates ensure the criteria better reflects the level of education, experience and language skills that set people up for career success in British Columbia.

The updated criteria includes specific pathways for international students at the bachelor, master and doctorate levels, in addition to a range of other immigration pathways for in-demand occupations. The BC PNP is a competitive process that has always favoured students with job offers. Even though some students in the past had applied without job offers, many of them were not successful.

Unfortunately, some have misrepresented the BC PNP as an easy pathway to permanent residency. For example, many students are under the impression that their school has been “pre-approved” for the BC PNP. The BC PNP does not maintain an approved list of post-secondary programs. While a program may appear on the *IPG Program of Study in Eligible Fields* list, it does not guarantee a nomination. The updated criteria will provide clearer guidelines regarding the education, experience and language skills required for nomination. Students who graduate in 2025 and beyond will be eligible under this updated criteria. There will be no bridging or grandfathering of candidates from the previous criteria. Those completing a program in 2025 will only be eligible according to the updated policy. See the [additional information document](#) for more information.

The BC PNP is one of several immigration pathways, that include:

1. **Federal immigration programs:** [Express Entry \(Canadian Experience Class, Federal Skilled Trades Program\)](#) prioritizes Canadian work experience and specific skills.
2. **Open work permits:** International graduates may be eligible for a Post-Graduation Work Permit, providing time to gain experience and meet qualifications for other immigration streams.
3. **Employer-sponsored immigration:** Opportunities with Canadian employers willing to sponsor immigration through [Labour Market Impact Assessments \(LMIA\)](#)s or other pathways.

We value the importance of international students and the contributions they make to their communities in British Columbia. We encourage you to explore all available options that can help you achieve your goals. Sincerely,

BC Provincial Nominee Program

Immigration Programs Branch

Email: PNPInfo@gov.bc.ca

Website: www.WelcomeBC.ca/PNP

The information contained in this email is provided solely for information purposes. It is not intended as, and should not be construed as, legal or immigration advice. We cannot and do not provide immigration advice or pre-assess any individual's program eligibility. We can only provide information about the BC PNP, such as explaining its criteria. While we strive to provide accurate information, you acknowledge and agree that any reliance on this information is at your own risk and that we are not liable for any consequences arising from reliance upon the information provided.

More information

- [Additional information about student stream changes](#)
- [WelcomeBC – About the BC PNP](#)
- [Information Bulletin from March 14, 2024 - Province creates clearer pathways for workers coming to B.C.](#)
- [Multi-language resources for newcomers](#)
- [BC Newcomers Guides](#)

Item 3: GSSBC

From: Clara Wallace DER GSS <external@sfugradsociety.ca>

Sent: June 3, 2024 12:23 PM

To: gssexternal@unbc.ca; gssoffice@unbc.ca; gssdit@unbc.ca; GSS Director of External Relations <gssexternal@uvic.ca>; GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>; Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>; Alireza Kamyabi <vpexternal@gss.ubc.ca>; externalpolicy@gss.ubc.ca; Pierre Cenerelli <pierre.cenerelli@sfugradsociety.ca>

Subject: Reactivating the GSSBC – Initial Steps and Meeting

You don't often get email from external@sfugradsociety.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi everyone

I hope all is well with you. I am the new Director of External Relations at SFU's Graduate Student Society. I am reaching out to reactivate the GSSBC with the newly elected representatives from each GSSBC University.

I understand that GSSBC used to have regular meetings but that things have slowed down in the past few months. It would be great to get meetings going again soon to discuss priorities and build strategies going forward.

To get things started, I propose the following initial steps:

1. **Online Meeting.**
2. Let's schedule an online meeting to introduce ourselves and discuss our plans and ideas moving forward. Please use the following link to indicate your availability for the meeting:
3. [Doodle](#)
4. [Poll](#). Please submit your availability by 3pm this Friday, June 7.
2. **Contact Information Update:**
3. Please reply to this email with the most current contact information for your society's participants to ensure we have an up-to-date contact list. Let me know if there is anyone I should add or remove from the current email list.

Thanks so much and I'm looking forward to connecting with everyone.

Kind regards

Clara Wallace

Director of External Relations

The Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University

2205, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6

external@sfugradsociety.ca | <http://www.sfugradsociety.ca>