

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board  
(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

JULY 2, 2024

**EXECUTIVE INVITED:**

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;  
Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;  
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);

**GUEST:** ICS and GC Teams: Megan Quigley, Settlement Advisor; Tricia Best, Director; Carmencita Duna, Associate Director

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STANDING ITEMS PART 1

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A. CALL TO ORDER

MADDOX called the meeting to order at 9:18am.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MADDOX offered a territorial acknowledgement with a brief history of colonization of Iceland, where he recently visited. MADDOX pointed out the cultural norms of microaggressions in a space without an Indigenous people.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*

*M/S: WEBB/LAWTON*

*CARRIED*

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NEW BUSINESS

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1. MEET AND GREET WITH ICS AND GC

Lead: MADDOX

For: Discussion

BEST gave an overview of ICS services including immigration/settlement services of arriving international students, support for outgoing international exchanges/studies, etc., and building a welcoming, inclusive, and intercultural campus culture. BEST also noted the communication side of their work, including a biweekly bulletin, social media, etc. where she'd love to see GSS cross posting.

BEST noted that Cecelia Rose, long-time Global Community advisor, has just gone on maternity leave. There are also a number of new staff members at ICS. DUNA also noted that the Global Community team will be at Wednesday Coffee tomorrow.

Quigley gave an overview of the settlement advising role, which includes everything from housing and health insurance to community referrals, etc. Quigley noted that graduate students with families is in high demand. Quigley asked to cross-post workshops on housing, family life, etc. Quigley also asked after family-specific events in the Fall, such as a family picnic.

MADDOX gave an overview of the board restructure and forthcoming annual plan that will focus on partnerships, advocacy, and community. LAWTON shared how she's been working with the GC team on international student orientations.

TURNER asked after joint advocacy work to the provincial and federal government. BEST noted that ICS relies heavily on student voices on advocacy work. Current issues include:

- BC PNP grandparenting – ICS is working jointly with SFU, UBC on this issue but finding no traction.
- Recognized institution framework – an institution survey is forthcoming in order to tier institutions within this new framework. A lot is still unknown about the framework.
- Canadian Bureau for International Education and Universities Canada is partnering on advocacy to the federal government asking for a slowing down of the new IRCC measures around international enrolment, caps, etc.
- Post-graduate work permit changes are forthcoming but yet unknown. The buzzwords are “labour market alignment.”
- Accessing mental health resources for international students.
- Support for students with families.
- Accessing emergency resources – financial, housing, food security.

PALAPARTY asked if there are any specific concerns around health insurance. QUIGLEY noted that information sharing around how health insurance works in Canada. QUIGLEY also noted that there is a coverage gap over the Summer. PALAPARTY shared the addition of the gender affirming care to the GSS plan. QUIGLEY noted that the supports that students are requesting are primarily around ID changes and social supports.

## 2. BC SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE IN POST SEC COMMITTEE MEMBER

Lead: TURNER

Ref doc: Appendix D

For: Discussion

**TASK: PALAPARTY to serve as the BC Sexualized Violence in Post Secondary committee member.**

## 3. GSSBC ADVOCACY LETTER

Lead: PALAPARTY

REF DOC: [GSSBC Advocacy Letter](#)

For: Decision

Would the GSS sign this joint advocacy letter addressed to the provincial government to increase funding in a few key areas? (Letter attached)

**TASK: PALAPARTY to confirm the UVic GSS signature on the GSSBC Advocacy letter.**

4. POST SECONDARY FUNDING RELATED TO GDP

Lead: PALAPARTY

REF DOC: [Image from GSSBC](#)

For: Discussion

Funding for post-secondary education in BC has decreased in the recent years with respect to GDP. How can we push the province to increase overall funding for post-secondary education instead of funding for individual items like scholarships or buildings? (Image attached)

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STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented.*

*M/S: LAWTON/FIELDER*

*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:**

TASK: WEBB to contact Karen Munro at UVic Library re: connections between the Library and the Grad Student Appreciation Week.

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

TASK: LAWTON to submit a catering order to Neil Barney, Operations and Services Manager, for the July GRC.

TASK: WEBB to send out a whentomeet poll to have a broader discussion on this issue.

**Tasks revoked or abandoned:**

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No committee appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D) 10:15

Item 1: Graduate Student Income Offset Program (GSTIOP) fee increases

Item 2: Ministry for Post-Secondary Ed Sexualized Violence Response Request

*Motion: to receive the correspondence.*

M/S:

CARRIED

TASK: FIELDER to contact GARO re: Graduate Student Income Offset Program (GSTIOP) fee increases.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. None noted

TASK: LAWTON to create GRC advertising materials for July.

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

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## CLOSING ITEMS

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### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX got a sessional instructor job at VIU on Wednesdays this Fall. He will be unavailable on Wednesdays. MADDOX will send out google forms to GRC for the FGS Supervision Policy review. He asked for board member availability for monthly one-on-one meetings.

Director of Finance: FIELDER will be returning home for July at the end of the week but will be available online.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB is occupied with housing issues at the moment and needs to find a new balance in work-life.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY the Martlet article on the GSS referendum is now out.

Director of Student Life: LAWTON reported on her weekend.

Executive Director: TURNER reported on her forthcoming vacation and prep work for it.

### NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Notice of Agenda item: Electoral Appeals Committee TOR approval

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: July 16, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: July 23, 2024

AGM: October 22, 2024

Office, Staff Scheduling: Kyla's vacation runs July 10-August 6 inclusive. One more working week for Kyla, if you need anything from her, let her know immediately!

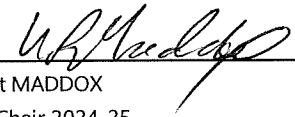
### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 10:25.*

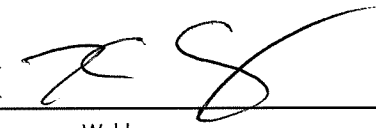
*M/S: LAWTON/MADDOX*

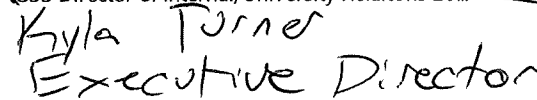
CARRIED/FAILED

X

  
Wyatt MADDIX  
GSS Chair 2024-25

X

  
Rosemary Wehh  
GSS Director of Internal/University Relations 20...

  
Kyla Turner  
Executive Director

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APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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**Item 1: GSTIOP Fee**

**From:** Ludwig Paul Cabling <cabling@uvic.ca>

**Sent:** June 12, 2024 1:51 PM

**To:** Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>

**Subject:** Re: GSS Contact Form Request From Ludwig Paul Cabling

Hi Kyla,

I just wanted to bring some attention back to this point as the grad student income offset plan cost went up again to \$50 from \$35 last year. Can you bring this back again to the board? Can this be investigated further? I know every school has different policies, but I want to outline that grad students are paid in installments and I want to try and make sense of the administrative costs related to this plan. I am sure it is a lot more of a bigger picture than I am seeing, but I would love to see the details of the "human oversight, data entry to comply with Canadian banking laws" to be more informed.

Thanks,

Paul

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**From:** Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:47 AM

**To:** GSS Governance <gssgov@uvic.ca>; Ludwig Paul Cabling <cabling@uvic.ca>

**Cc:** Summer Okibe - GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>

**Subject:** RE: GSS Contact Form Request From Ludwig Paul Cabling

Good morning Paul,

Thank you for your patience in my reply. Our Executive Board has your inquiry on their September 20 agenda to review for advocacy to the University about the GSTIOP program.

I'm going to start this with a bit of info from UVic on GSTIOP (and apologies that this will sound very "party-line.")

Unfortunately, not all universities are set up to withdraw tuition from student stipends, particularly in BC. SFU for instance charges 2% monthly interest to pay tuition by installments. UBC does not appear to have an installment plan at all. Because these fee installment programs are not standard in BC, the GSTIOP designed to be self-funded through fees collected.

These fees offset the labour costs for administering the plan. My understanding from UVic was that the program had not, in fact, been covering labour to administer the plan for years. The GSTIOP program requires a fair bit of human oversight and data entry to comply with Canadian banking laws. The fees raised last year because it's the first fee change for this program since it's inception, so they are catching up on many, many years of inflation and wage increases for the staff who administer the plan. It was also intended to address the number of insufficient fund errors that the program ran into, resulting in increased banking fees for students. By allowing students to initiate payment over the course of the month, UVic's hope was that students could initiate payment when the funds were in their account.

Personally, I am not in favour of charge low-income students more to access this form of aid, and I can represent this matter to our board. The Province is actually conducting a full review of how post-secondary institutions are funded, and the GSS will be advocating for changes that should make it easier to bring BC in line with the financial services standards of other provinces.

Thanks,

Kyla Turner (she/her or they/them)

Executive Director

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Keep in touch by signing up for our bulletin here: <https://gss.uvic.ca/gss-bulletin/>

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Box 1700, Victoria, BC, V8W 2Y2

GSS front desk: 250-472-4543

GSS fax: 250-721-6137

<http://gss.uvic.ca>

**From:** UVic Graduate Students' Society <[gssmgr@uvic.ca](mailto:gssmgr@uvic.ca)>

**Sent:** September 9, 2022 12:39 PM

**To:** GSS Office <[gssoffice@uvic.ca](mailto:gssoffice@uvic.ca)>

**Subject:** GSS Contact Form Request From Ludwig Paul Cabling

Hello, I was wondering if there was someone on the GSS that is in charge of discussions about the graduate student income offset plan (<https://www.uvic.ca/students/campus-services/tuition-fees-budgeting/graduate-student-tuition-income-offset-plan/index.php>).

I am coming from the University of Alberta where tuition fees are deducted automatically from graduate student stipends, without any fee or form required. Other universities like USask does the same with an automatic offset from graduate student stipends. Graduate students at the University of Victoria had\* to pay a \$25 fee (2021-2022) and a form to be done to get tuition and fees deducted every month from my stipend, and now the form is asking for a \$35 fee for the form for 2022-2023... I do not know what this fee increase entails nor do I think the fee is necessary in the first place, considering it is the STUDENT'S responsibility (work) to send 4 installments a term. This is gouging graduate students who are honestly already being exploited enough.

Do let me know who I can talk to about this if possible!

Thank you,  
Paul

-Ludwig Paul Cabling ( [cabling@uvic.ca](mailto:cabling@uvic.ca) )

## Item 2: Ministry for Post-Secondary SV Advisory Group

**From:** Kusz, Jennifer PSFS:EX <Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** June 20, 2024 3:41 PM

**To:** Clara Wallace <external@sfugradsociety.ca>; Pierre Cenerelli <pierre.cenerelli@sfugradsociety.ca>; Firth MacKenzie McEachern <president@gss.ubc.ca>; vpexternal <vpexternal@gss.ubc.ca>; Vivian Tian <office@gss.ubc.ca>; Ekpeno Ukut <gsspres@unbc.ca>; Alden Chow <gssoffice@unbc.ca>; GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>; Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>

**Subject:** Invitation to Become the Graduate Student Representative on the SV Advisory Group

You don't often get email from [jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Jennifer Kusz, and I am a Senior Policy Analyst with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS). Together with BC post-secondary institutions (PSIs) representatives, students/student associations, subject matter experts, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexualized violence, we coordinate a Sexualized Violence Advisory Group.

We are reaching out to all **graduate student societies** to see if you, or someone else in your organization who is engaged in sexualized violence work, are interested in becoming **the graduate student representative** of the SV Advisory Group and a voice for your community. Joining the Advisory Group gives you the opportunity to be the point of connection between the Ministry and post-secondary education representatives. This opportunity gives you the chance to be an active participant in the province-wide response to sexualized violence within post-secondary system.

This group is the main connection point between PSFS, BC PSIs, students/student associations, subject matter experts, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexualized violence. The main purposes of the group are to:

- Provide ongoing and annual recommendations and feedback to PSFS on its strategic direction, programs, and initiatives, relating to efforts at preventing and responding to sexualized violence in the post-secondary system.
- Provide guidance to affiliated SV Working Groups.
- Consult with various stakeholder groups, including students, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations on matters related to sexualized violence in post-secondary system.

The goal is for the group to include members with diverse experiences and strive to reflect the perspectives of those engaged in sexualized violence work in the post-secondary system in BC. We are

seeking representation of people with diverse identities and backgrounds, including people who identify as equity deserving groups including, but not limited to, Indigenous, Black, and persons of colour (BIPOC), 2SLGBTQQIA+, and persons with disabilities.

To align with annual election cycles, and to facilitate continuous student representation, the Ministry is reaching out to provincial student associations, non-affiliated student societies, and BC student-led sexualized violence organizations annually every Spring. There is one seat available for each of the following: Alliance of BC Students, BC Federation of Students, non-affiliated student societies, Graduate Student Societies of BC, and BC student-led sexualized violence organizations. Each group of organizations will be invited to select a representative to attend the SV Advisory Group meetings for a one-year term. Representatives are encouraged to select an alternate person in case they are unable to attend a meeting or need to step away.

**As we are reaching out directly to the graduate student societies, we ask that you coordinate to determine which graduate student association/union will be the main representative on the committee. This structure means there is one person who is the main graduate student representative on the Advisory Group, with another graduate student association/union selecting one person to be the alternate representative.**

Please see our [website](#) for more information, including the Terms of Reference. Currently, the group meets virtually once a month. We are looking for representatives to join our meetings starting in August 2024.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information about the group, please contact me, [jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca).

We look forward to hearing from you,

Jennifer

**Jennifer Kusz (PhD)**

**Senior Policy Analyst**

*Pronouns: she/her/hers*

Post-Secondary Policy Unit

Strategic Policy & Initiatives Branch

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS)

Email: [Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca)

*I am grateful to live, learn/unlearn, work, and play on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw, First Nations People.*