

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 22ND, 2020

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: Mehdi HASHEMI, Chair; Elaine LABERGE, Director of Communications; Carla OSBORNE, Director of Finance (part); Sima SHANJANI, Director of Services; Saeed REZVANI, Director of Student Affairs; Stacy CHAPPEL, Executive Director.

STAFF AND/OR GUESTS PRESENT: Nancy Patino, Restaurant Manager (part), Annette Fraser, Ombudsperson.

STANDING ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at [Time] with HASHEMI in the chair.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved with Executive Board reports moved until after the guest speaker.

M/S REZVANI/SHANJANI

CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED that the minutes from the January 8, 2020 Executive Board meeting are approved as presented.

M/S REZVANI/LABERGE

CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTIONS/TASKS noted as completed, or revoked:

All tasks completed except July 4 FBC catering policy was deferred, and UVSS was informed re decision on VIPIRG verbally, not in a letter.

Sept 18 proposal for representative compensation was instead submitted for discussion to UVIC-GSS Executive meeting agenda.

Follow-up TASKS assigned:

TASK: HASHEMI to bring issue of where to include policy on staff use of personal phones should be included in the policy manual to the Bylaw and Policy Committee.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: RESOLVED to elect Troy Sebastian as the graduate student representative to the 2019-20 Appointment Committee for the Dean of Fine Arts.

M/S: SHANJANI/REZVANI

CARRIED.

Motion: RESOLVED to elect Alejandra Zubria Perez as the graduate student representative to the 2019-20 Andy Farquarson Teaching Excellence Award Committee.

M/S: LABERGE/SHANJANI

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. Regarding a request to hold a referendum on the WUSC fee

HASHEMI reported the question on whether to have a referendum has been included on the GRC agenda. He asked whether the Executive would endorse the proposal to hold a referendum.

Motion: RESOLVED to endorse the proposal to have a fee referendum to support WUSC

M/S HASHEMI/LABERGE

There was a discussion on whether to ask for more information on the university funding before endorsing.

CARRIED

REZVANI noted his abstention.

AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF (GRC, OPERATIONAL RELATIONS ETC.)

1. January 24, 2019 consultation on proposed university policy on investment.
2. GRC next week, please come early for set up.

MEETING BUSINESS

A. GUEST: OMBUDSPERSON

HASHEMI welcomed Annette FRASER, the UVIC Ombudsperson

FRASER reported she had reviewed the Advocate Fund Terms of Reference. In general she felt the set up was very good. She asked about the "efficient use of funds" criteria, asking if the fund is only to be used as a last resort? Also discussed was flagging trends in issues to the ombudsperson office. FRASER expressed interest in collaborating with an advocate on systemic issues arising. FRASER also asked about promotion and letting members know about the resource.

TASK: CHAPPEL to provide link regarding the Student Advocate Fund on the GSS website.

TASK: CHAPPEL to send materials to Ombudsperson office as hand outs.

B. EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: HASHEMI reported he is involved with OSBORNE in supporting PATINO on restaurant changes. He has been meeting regularly with staff about changes to management staffing and roles. HASHEMI has been working on the project to finalize a code of conduct for the GSS.

Director of Communications: LABERGE reported Communications Committee did not meet January and will be meeting in February. Focus of the committee is an update to the bulletin.

REZVANI asked about the proposal to update the website. LABERGE said there was a review at the committee of requested improvements, but structural change would require an external contract.

OSBORNE noted that a major change to design structure would require a budget for the coming year. OSBORNE suggested a focussed discussion in an upcoming agenda to review the folders involved (site architecture) in order to understand what is involved in such a project.

SHANJANI noted the key is content updates to keep it fresh – without refreshing content (photos, writing, news) a design change won't necessarily improve the site.

REZVANI suggested we cannot rely on volunteers for major work.

LABERGE said another key issue is consistency in design and messaging. She noted it is important to consider social media and other communications.

TASK: LABERGE will convene a working session to discuss communications status and goals.

Director of Finance: OSBORNE reported she has continued working to support PATINO with changes to the Restaurant and had a meeting of the Finance Committee. She will be meeting with Mike Wilson at UVIC regarding options for improving our signage.

Director of Services: SHANJANI reported on the Senate Academic Standards and Dean of Engineering Search Committees. Events Committee has set events for the semester and is therefore taking time to clean up the Committee Connect site, and preparing a transition document for the next Executive Board.

Director of Student Affairs: REZVANI reported that, in addition to the GSS letter regarding BC MSP, there is a provincial MSP campaign to be discussed later in the agenda. The Student Affairs Committee continues to work on mental health issues (lead is a committee member) and on WCB eligibility, and standardization of GRC elections. He met councillor LESHNER today about the ad-hoc committee, and a proposal to combine efforts with the Student Affairs governance project. REZVANI is continuing with the Presidential Search Committee and continues to work on the residential move-out policy question.

Executive Director: CHAPPEL reported she had assisted three students this term to date, completed the Electoral Officer training, drafting proposals for the residence policy, participating in meetings re office changes, and a variety of meetings and agenda preparations of which the board is already aware.

Restaurant Manager: PATINO reported she has been working on the changes in the restaurant to policy and processes. Her goals is to stabilize operations.

C. CODE OF CONDUCT

HASHEMI reported that the Bylaw and Policy Committee is bringing a proposal for an interim code of conduct to Grad Council. The proposal has three components, including:

1. Formal ratification of a declaration of intent
2. An interim code of conduct that states we use UVIC's definitions and standards
3. Guidance for addressing concerns within the GSS, dependent on the venue or party

D. MSP CAMPAIGNS

REZVANI reported that the joint letter with SFU is progressing. Additionally, the Alliance of BC Students have developed a campaign on the BC MSP issue. REZVANI asked whether he should proceed with collaboration, or if the Executive would first prefer to review the ABCS materials.

[PATINO left the meeting, 4:31 pm]

Decision: REZVANI to continue collaborating with ABCS' Campaign on MSP as long as the campaign content is consistent with the position on the issue taken by Grad Council.

E. TAX ON STUDENT LOANS.

TABLED to next meeting as the information was not provided with the agenda.

F. MEICON

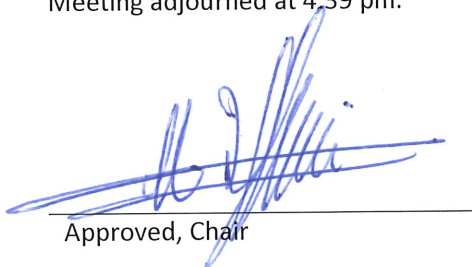
HASHEMI declared a conflict of interest on this item, as he is a member of the organizing committee.

TABLED to next meeting.


CLOSING ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 pm.



Approved, Chair



Approved, Executive Director

sc/KLP