

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA BLACKBOARD) MEETING MINUTES

MAY 1, 2020, 3 PM

EXECUTIVE INVITED: Drake RUSHFORD, Chair; Matty CERVANTES, Director of Communications; Jacob HUNT, Director of Finance; Angélique ROSE, Director of Services; Antoine ROSE, Director of Student Affairs; Stacy CHAPPEL, Executive Director (non-voting).

REGRETS: none.

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm with RUSHFORD in the Chair.

RUSHFORD made the Land Acknowledgement.

Angélique ROSE gave the statement celebrating bilingualism.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S Antoine ROSE/Angélique ROSE

CARRIED

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED that the minutes from the April 17th, 2020 Executive Board meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: CERVANTES/Angélique ROSE

CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTIONS/TASKS noted as completed:

- Follow-up TASK: Check with council regarding continued memberships and any resulting changes to committees. COMPLETE
- TASK: CHAPPEL to post David Foster's training power point Robert's Rules training for Grad Council to the CourseSpaces. COMPLETE
- TASK: Grad Council will be asked about the option of a referendum on making distance students automatic members COMPLETE
- TASK: CHAPPEL to contact the broker to clarify the extension prices and percentages for vaccines, and whether new vaccines would be included in the extension to vaccine coverage. COMPLETE
- TASK: CERVANTES completed and return Conflict of Interest form.

E. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: RESOLVED that to elect Mathilde Cervantes as the graduate student representative to the 2020-21 EQHR Policy Advisory Committee.

M/S: Antoine ROSE/ Angélique ROSE

CARRIED

TASK: CHAPPEL or POTTS to notify the committee of CERTANTES election.

MEETING BUSINESS

1. VIRTUAL OPERATIONS

Office expenses

Motion:

WHEREAS Executive Board members and GSS staff are working from home due to COVID-19 campus closure; therefore

RESOLVED office supplies purchased for GSS work at home will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$100 per director or office staff member upon production of a receipt;

FURTHER RESOLVED expenses for shared office/personal use will be reimbursed at a rate of 50%.

M/S: Antoine ROSE/Angélique ROSE

CARRIED

DISCUSSION:

CHAPPEL explained this is intended to cover minor office expenses, since we do not have access to the petty cash. It doesn't preclude larger expenses, but these would need pre-approval.

She noted Karen POTTS had gathered some information on tax benefits for those working in a home office. Executive members and staff should maintain records as they can claim home office expenses on their taxes.

Angélique ROSE asked about event expenses. CHAPPEL clarified that expenses that are already budgeted would not be covered by this, this is for basic office supplies such as note books and printer toner.

Member communications

CHAPPEL reported she had been asked by board members about communications with the members. She noted that existing methods include:

- Mass email to every member (restricted to use for elections, legal notices, and health plan deadline notices)
- GSS email bulletin, social media, website
- Grad Council list serv can be used to circulate materials through our reps
- UVIC has a moderated graduate secretary list serv we can use to promote major initiatives through departments.

Angélique asked about the Grad Secretary List moderation. CHAPPEL reported the list is managed by a staff member in the Faculty of Graduate Studies but cautioned against overuse.

CERVANTES suggested she and Angélique ROSE work together to coordinate communication efforts. She stated her goal is to improve subscriptions to the GSS bulletin list.

2. HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN

CHAPPEL referred to the briefing on the health and dental plan fee options.

Motion:

RESOLVED to hold a referendum on June 3 – 5, 2020 on the question of assessing distance students for the Extended Health and Dental Plan fees.

FURTHER RESOLVED the referendum question will be:

Are you in favour of automatically assessing graduate students who are enrolled full-time off campus (online) for GSS Extended Health and Dental Plans at the same rate as students registered full time on campus or on co-op (\$407/year Extended Health Plan fee and \$236/year Dental Plan fee)?

M/S: Angélique ROSE/CERVANTES

CARRIED

Noted that electoral officer Brooklynn Trimble is available.

Motion:

RESOLVED to hold a referendum on June 3 – 5, 2020 on the question of including vaccines in the Extended Health Plan

FURTHER RESOLVED the referendum question will be:

Are you in favour of increasing the Extended Health Plan fee \$0.17/month (from \$407/year to \$409/year) to include vaccine coverage for travel and influenza vaccines?

YES/NO

M/S: Angélique ROSE/CERVANTES

CARRIED

Motion:

RESOLVED to hold a referendum on June 3 – 5, 2020 on the question of increasing the Dental Plan fee

Are you in favour of increasing the Dental Plan fee by \$1.00 per month (from \$236/year to \$245/year) to maintain current dental coverage rates?

YES/NO

M/S: HUNT/Angélique ROSE

CARRIED

3. FINANCE UPDATE

Reference document: Appendix E

MOTION: RESOLVED to convene a special general meeting on June 2, 2020 to seek member permission to borrow and make use of the Building Fund.

M/S HUNT/Angélique ROSE

CARRIED

4. FIRST MONTH CHECK

Effective meetings and agenda items

GSS staff hours/roles

5. BILINGUALISM/MULTILINGUALISM

REF DOC: Letter from Grad Councillor Joseph Horan

Motion: RESOLVED to submit the following proposal for a multilingual celebration statement to council as follows:

“The Graduate Representative Council of the GSS supports speakers of all languages and the revitalization of languages. Members of the GSS contribute to the diversity of our community through their culture and language, no matter which that may be, and we recognize and celebrate their particular gifts.”

M/S HUNT/CERVANTES

FAILED

RUSHFORD reported HORAN had written a letter proposing to eliminate the bilingualism statement or change it to a multilingualism statement.

Angélique ROSE proposed a friendly amendment to include both a statement about bilingualism and multilingualism.

HUNT noted that Canada is bilingual federally, but not provincially and the university is a provincial institution. HUNT agreed with many points raised by HORAN in his letter, and the inclusion of the bilingualism statement next to the land acknowledgement might undermine the land acknowledgement. He also agreed with Horan that it takes time in meetings that already run overtime.

Antoine ROSE stated that he thought HORAN had some good points about the tension created with the land acknowledgement, which was not the intention. It is important to create a positive atmosphere but also important to acknowledge the movement to bilingualism came after a long struggle for the people of Québec. Although he personally supports official bilingualism, he thinks it is important to have a positive atmosphere that reflects the good intentions the board had with this statements. A celebration of bilingualism can be done in practice rather than with a statement. He suggested the GSS eliminate the statement, rather than amend it.

CHAPPEL noted Québec, like BC, is a unilingual province, but the practice of starting meetings with a quick bilingual welcome such as “*bienvenue toute le monde, welcome everyone ...*”) is common practice, without a formal statement.

RUSHFORD noted there were several proposals that had come up in discussion. He posed a straw poll on the options raised in discussion.

Motion: RESOLVED to eliminate the bilingualism statement, but begin meetings by welcoming members in both English and French.

M/S RUSHFORD/HUNT
CARRIED

6. INTER-SCHOOL EVENTS

Angélique ROSE noted that she is promoting online events with international time zone noted, and promote to other universities. She noted some students are not in the same time zone.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: RUSHFORD had nothing to report.

Director of Communications: CERVANTES reported the Communications Committee met on April 23. The meeting went very well and many participated. The committee is discussing an alternative to the handbook and preparing for orientation communications. She noted the bylaws are not up to date with her role as it includes the *Unacknowledged Source*.

TASK: CERVANTES will send the bylaw change she is proposing to RUSHFORD for consideration at the Bylaw and Policy Committee.

Director of Finance: HUNT had nothing to report.

Director of Services: Angélique ROSE reported that there is a new events landing page at gss.uvic.ca/gss-events which makes it easier to promote the website on the poster.

Director of Student Affairs: Antoine ROSE had nothing to report.

Executive Director: CHAPPEL reported that Health Plan Coordinator who is currently on leave has given notice she will not return.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Next meeting will include building agendas for the SAGM and the GRC

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Next Executive Meetings:

May 15, 3 pm

Other meetings:

May 7, 2 pm – Labour Management Committee

May 11, 3 pm – Meet Student Affairs Division team

May 26, 5 pm – Grad Rep Council

June 2, 5pm – Special General Meeting

GSS Events:

Angélique ROSE circulated a poster with upcoming events.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.
M/S Angelique ROSE/CERVANTES
CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm.

sc/klp

X 

Drake Rushford
Chair

X 

Stacy Chappel
Excutive Director