

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA BLACKBOARD) MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2020

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

REGRETS: Angélique ROSE will arrive after work.

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 PM with RUSHFORD in the chair.

Antoine ROSE gave a land acknowledgement.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S CERVANTES/Antoine ROSE

CARRIED.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED that the minutes from the May 15, 2020 and May 25, 2020 Executive Board meetings are approved as presented.

M/S CERVANTES/HUNT

CARRIED.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTIONS/TASKS noted as completed, or revoked:

COMPLETED: Antoine ROSE reported the Student Affairs Committee will meet in early June and will follow up with Mark Zion and prepare a recommendation for the Executive Board after that meeting.

COMPLETED: Antoine ROSE invited Mark Zion to the STUDENT AFFAIRS meeting.

COMPLETED: CERVANTES and CHAPPEL will work on draft materials for the referendum campaign.

COMPLETED: CHAPPEL to prep some comments on the health and dental plan referendum for the RUSHFORD and the GRC

COMPLETED: Antoine ROSE will attend the Health Information Science orientation: June 8, 2020.

COMPLETED: CHAPPEL will circulate last year's orientation materials to the Exec.

COMPLETED: CHAPPEL to manage polling at Special General Meeting or delegate to BARNEY.

COMPLETED: HUNT to make the polls for the Grad Council Meeting.

COMPLETED: CHAPPEL to circulate campaign messaging for the health and dental referendum.

COMPLETED: RUSHFORD will notify the Student Affairs Office that the GSS will prefer meeting online.

PARTIALLY COMPLETED: RUSHFORD, CHAPPEL and HUNT can develop a planning agenda.

Follow-up TASKS assigned:

Work continues on tasks related to development of the annual plan and orientation materials.

E. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: RESOLVED that to elect Drake RUSHFORD as the graduate student representative to the 2020-21 Strategic Enrolment Management subcommittee on Graduate Recruitment, Retention and Success Implementation Committee (GRR IC).

FURTHER RESOLVED Antoine ROSE is elected as the alternate rep.

M/S Antoine ROSE/CERVANTES

CARRIED.

F. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No correspondence received.

G. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF (GRC, OPERATIONAL RELATIONS ETC.)**1. Operational Relations Agenda Items**

- Opening of laboratory space
- ATRS and UPASS in the fall semester
- GSS Health Plan update

MEETING BUSINESS

1. FINANCE

Motion: WHEREAS the members approved the use of the Building Fund for emergency purposes at the Special General Meeting on June 2, 2020, and

WHEREAS the members approved a repayment plan as follows:

- Return unneeded funds to Building Fund at March 31, 2021.
- A budget \$3,000/year for repayment from the Operating Fund until repaid starting April 1, 2022.
- Additional transfers at fiscal year where possible.;

Therefore: RESOLVED that \$28,000 is allocated from the Building Fund to the Operating Fund.

M/S HUNT/CERVANTES

CARRIED

TASK: NAME draft a Building Fund repayment plan memo.

Motion: WHEREAS the members have authorized the GSS to borrow \$40,000 under the federal government Canada Emergency Business Account program by special resolution at the Special General Meeting on June 2, 2020, therefore:

RESOLVED that the GSS apply for a loan of \$40,000 through the Canada Emergency Business Account program.

M/S: HUNT/Antoine ROSE

CARRIED

2. CAPITAL SPENDING

Motion: WHEREAS functions requiring use of UVIC data cannot be completed on a personal computer; and

WHEREAS UVIC phones can be answered on a UVIC laptop from home without use of personal phones; therefore,

RESOLVED that \$ 2363.71 from the Capital Fund is allocated to purchase two laptops for staff

M/S: Antoine ROSE/CERVANTES

Discussion: CHAPPEL referred to the briefing and stated that she had followed up on the two computers detailed and what was needed for the specific positions. CHAPPEL reported LIAU recommended the higher price computer for the Communications Coordinator who uses Adobe Creative Suites as well as accessing UVIC datasets, email and handling calls, and the lower price computer for the work done by the Governance Computer who needs it for minutes, accessing UVIC datasets, and handling emails and calls.

CARRIED

[Angelique ROSE arrived at 4:26 pm.]

3. HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN CONTRACT

Motion: WHEREAS the members have voted in a referendum June 3-5, 2020 to adopt changes to the GSS Extended Health and Dental Plan coverage, therefore.

RESOLVED to renew the student extended health and dental contract with PBC with the following updates and amendments:

- Maintain the dental coverage at the price quoted;
- Expand the extended health coverage to include travel and influenza vaccines at the price quoted;
- To change enrollment criteria to include full time distance students in automatic fee assessment, so that all full time students are automatically enrolled; and
- To permit opt ins by part time students for one year on a provisional basis.

M/S: Antoine ROSE/Angélique ROSE

CARRIED

4. FOLLOW UP ON BLM LETTER

REF DOC: Black Lives Matter support letter (APPENDIX A)

CERVANTES reported that she and BARNEY worked on the draft and received input from many members.

MOTION: RESOLVED that the GSS approves the Black Lives Matter statement as presented for distribution as the official statement of the GSS.

M/S CERVANTES/HUNT

CARRIED

Angelique ROSE noted her abstention due to the rules of her Government of Canada internship on taking political stands of any nature.

TASK: CHAPPEL and RUSHFORD to prepare signed letter for circulation.

CHAPPEL and CERVANTES to develop a members' letter to advocate on the goals articulated in the letter.

5. EQHR POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP

REF DOC: Appendix F

CERVANTES reported she attended the EQHR Policy Advisory Committee. Two policies are being reviewed and updated by this committee: Sexualized Violence Prevention Policy and Discrimination Policies. The committee will be working for two years.

CERVANTES recommended the Executive Board each take the EQHR training.

TASK: Each Executive Member will take the EQHR anti-racist training. CHAPPEL to circulate.

6. SAANICH BYLAW – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NON-RELATED TENANTS

Reference: https://saanich.ca.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=1&event_id=687

Public hearing at Saanich Council Saturday, June 20, 2020 10:00 a.m.

In past Saanich has evicted students from rental housing because they were unrelated and living in a dwelling. Council is holding hearings on proposed changes to this bylaw to allow up to 5 unrelated people to share a dwelling.

Motion: The GSS supports the proposed change to Saanich Zoning Bylaw No 96078 Housing Occupancy Limit of Unrelated Residences to increase the limit to six unrelated tenants
M/S HUNT/CERVANTES
CARRIED

TASK: CHAPPEL and RUSHFORD to draft a submission to Saanich Council.

7. INTER-UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT LETTER

RUSHFORD reported that all BC GSS groups (SFU, UBC, UNBC, UVIC) meet up to discuss collaboration. He attended the meeting with CERVANTES. The plan is to co-author a joint letter to the Ministry of Advanced Education to raise the concerns of graduate students. This letter would itemize the specific needs of graduate students. The groups also agreed to keep the channels of communication open as an informal alliance moving forward.

TASK: RUSHFORD will circulate the draft inter-university letter to the Executive Board.

8. ANNUAL PLAN PLANNING

RUSFORD reported that he, HUNT and CHAPPEL met to draft an agenda for Annual Plan Development.

The group proposed meeting in person, at the Grad House where we could maintain social distance but discuss in person. The plan is also to meet on a weekend, to ensure everyone can attend as having the whole

group present is important. Plan would be to work for a full day on brainstorming and developing a draft plan. Then to meet a week later to put the plan together. Then the document would be finalized by RUSHFORD for the GRC meeting.

Dates: June 28, 11- 7 (brainstorming and basic planning),

Follow up on July 5, 11 – 7 (actual plan to be determined in June 28)

TASK: All Executive to review the report for their committee, as well as the Executive Board Report, prior to the Annual Plan Meeting.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: RUSHFORD reported he met with Jim Dunsdon AVP Student Affairs and learned 1.5 million had been distributed to students in emergency COVID 19. They are currently working on plans for supports to graduate students in the fall (in the form of employment). He mentioned the STUA office is happy to collaborate on events. For instance, they can help facilitate an in-person event.

Director of Communications, Director of Finance, Director of Services, Director of Student Affairs: no reports.

Executive Director: CHAPPEL noted her written report was filed on Connect with this meeting's agenda.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

None.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Next Executive Meetings: July 7th, 2020, 4 pm

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

sc/klp

X 

Drake Rushford
Chair

X 

Stacy Chappel
Executive Director

Appendix 1 – Black Lives Matter Letter

June 17, 2020

Re: Statement of Solidarity with Black Live Matter

Dear UVIC community members:

The University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society stands with Black and Indigenous communities and People of Colour in the United States, Canada, and around the world. The GSS stands against racism and intolerance, we stand in solidarity with those experiencing racist, anti-Black violence. We stand in support of graduate students and those who are protesting, resisting, and working individually and collectively for social change.

For Canadians, it can be dangerously easy to seek distance as we watch events unfold in the United States. To do so, however, is to deny the reality that Canada is built on continuing systems of colonialism and intersectional oppression that benefit white folk at the expense of Black and Indigenous folks and People of Colour. At the GSS, we acknowledge the importance of the collective effort of continuing to work to dismantle the systemic racism that produces violence, in the US, Canada and around the world.

In academia we may think we are immune to racism, when in fact, we are part of a legacy of racist institutions built upon and with stolen lands, homes, and families. As the next generation of academics, we have the privilege and power to influence university administrations for policy change. Acknowledging the existence of systemic racism is not enough. Universities have failed to address racism through past and current practices. One step towards change is by addressing the gaps in our curriculum, reviewing our admissions criteria for systemic bias, and ensuring that scholarships and mentoring programs for Black and Indigenous graduate students are funded. Amplify, fund, and create space for the work of Black and Indigenous graduate students and scholars.

At both the university and student societies we need to be more inclusive to have diverse representation on our Boards and Committees. While we continue to support our allies, to be effective allies in anti-racist work, we acknowledge that we are still learning ourselves and do not have all of the answers. In order to be more effective in what we do, we must listen and prioritize the voices of Black and Indigenous people, and People of Colour, and follow through on their recommendations on how we can facilitate learning and improve together.

At the GSS, we believe in self-reflection and social transformation. These are times to be active and not passive; times to speak out and create commitments; times to reflect on the systemic nature of racism, internalized white supremacy and the need for a systemic remedy; times to dismantle systemic racism.

Yes, we need to speak out, but we also need to take action. We need to listen.

All that begins with individual and collective transformation and we are committed to it. At the GSS, we are committed to providing a safe space, in our building and our online platforms, for our community members and advocating for their human rights and equity. The GSS pledges to take-action through supporting our community, based on their needs, with respect and valuing human dignity. We will continue to amplifying the voices of the Black students, Indigenous students and students of colour. We are open to having more discussions, input and collaborations to continue working together in the GSS community and beyond.

As a first step, we intend to:

- Demand that the University keep better, more transparent data on racist incidents that occur on campus and that this data is made publicly available. The Ombudsperson office is able to release anonymized reports that influence University policy, there is no reason that the Equity and Human Rights (EQHR) office cannot do the same.
- Demand better follow up from the University on racist incidents that does not amount to the same tired rhetoric about confronting racism without attendant action being taken. This piece should be informed by the publicly available data and not simply guided by optics.

These are simply first steps. We hope to have a more robust platform soon.

The GSS welcomes your feedback, you can share ideas, thoughts, and remember we are here to support you. We are here to listen.

Please contact us at gssoffice@uvic.ca. Alternatively, contact information for specific individual staff and board members is available [here](#).

If you would rather speak directly to someone (albeit digitally for now), we are available on Blackboard every Wednesday from 9:30am - 11:00am (link: <https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/f4d0953b85174e57be6f6c7cd6f9dd32>). If this time does not work for you but you would still like to speak with us directly, please send us an email and we will do our best to meet with you.

In peace and solidarity,

Drake Rushford

GSS Chair

On behalf of the UVIC Graduate Students' Society