

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA BLACKBOARD) MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2020

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: Drake RUSHFORD, Chair; Matty CERVANTES, Director of Communications; Jacob HUNT, Director of Finance; Antoine ROSE, Director of Student Affairs, Daniel GUDINO, Director of Services (PART).

VACANT: Executive Director (non-voting).

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with RUSHFORD in the chair.
RUSHFORD gave a land acknowledgement. ROSE gave a welcoming in French.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S Antoine ROSE/CERVANTES

CARRIED.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED that the minutes from the July 21st and August 4th Executive Board meetings are approved as presented.

M/S CERVANTES/ROSE

CARRIED.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Tabled.

E. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Given that RUSHFORD already attends FGS Council as the graduate rep on the Library Senate Committee, it was decided that an Executive Board member other than RUSHFORD should take the official seat representing the GSS. All other vacancies will be advertised to the general membership.

Motion: RESOLVED that Matty CERVANTES be elected as the GSS representative to the FGS Council, and that RUSHFORD be elected as one of two GSS representatives to the Dean of Grad Studies Hiring Committee.

M/S HUNT/ROSE

CARRIED.

F. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Motion: RESOLVED that the correspondence presented has been received.

M/S CERVANTES/ROSE

CARRIED.

RUSHFORD reported on the [Toronto Science Policy Network](#) (TSPN) and the results of the survey COVID impacts on grad students. It seems similar to the local results from our reports at UVic.

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

1. PRESIDENT'S MEETING

RUSHFORD informed about the meeting with Jamie Cassels and the invitation to consider joining to the EQHR training as well the ICAT.

TASK: RUSHFORD to add for a future executive meeting the proposal for the GSS to join the Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training (ICAT).

MEETING BUSINESS

1. SEPTEMBER OPERATIONS & STAFFING UPDATE

Motion: RESOLVED that the governance coordinator is allocated an additional 20 hours through September/October 2020.

M/S: ROSE/HUNT

Discussion: RUSHFORD presented the staffing concerns for September. HUNT spoke to the feasibility of increasing staff hours from the financial perspective. Currently the GSS is under budget, therefore it is financially possible to add more hours. HUNT also explained that the GSS will not be spending the budget on an ED for the foreseeable future.

CARRIED

[GUDINO joined the meeting at 4:23, went out at 4:37, then came back at 5:07 PM.]

MOTION: RESOLVED that the governance coordinator's hours are increased an additional 30 hours for a total of 80 additional hours through September/October 2020.

M/S ROSE/HUNT

CARRIED.

Note, this is a decision for 2020 only and should not be used in future decisions.

2. RENTAL SUPPLEMENT & EVICTION BAN EXTENSION LETTER

REF DOC:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QcKMYHBosMFt0vAl2lc8VRLvJedtlTvjqVl641iQlX4/edit?usp=sharing>

Motion: RESOLVED that the GSS will sign the province-wide open letter asking for an extension of the rental supplement and eviction ban.

M/S: ROSE/CERVANTES

CARRIED.

TASK: RUSHFORD to arrange for GSS to be a signatory to the letter regarding an extension of the eviction ban and rental supplement.

TASK: RUSHFORD to provide letter and supplemental materials to CERVANTES and BARNEY for posting on the GSS website.

3. DEPARTMENT ORIENTATIONS UPDATE

GUDINO informed the Executive that the video is ready. GUDINO re-confirmed the importance of keeping students motivated and informed about the GSS. GUDINO suggested being ready with a script in case there is not enough time to show the video. GUDINO mentioned that BARNEY can provide a text with the key information for the orientation sessions.

4. EXECUTIVE TRAINING FEEDBACK

This past year was a pilot project expanding the training and orientation for the incoming Executive to include compensation for time spent in training and involved the outgoing Executive. The Stipend Review Committee spearheaded this pilot and would like some feedback on whether the extra time, effort and resources were worthwhile. The SRC has requested Executive members answer these questions to provide feedback.

1. What do you think this training did well? (topics, format)
2. How do you think future training could be improved? (content, format, presenters)
3. Considering the total cost of this training (honoraria for new Board members, paid staff time, outgoing Executive volunteer time), do you think it was money/time well spent?
4. And finally, any other feedback you would like to provide?

TASK: RUSHFORD to email questions to Executive. Executive are to provide feedback.

5. OPERATIONS RELATIONS PRONOUNS

UVic Student Affairs would like to include each attendee's preferred gender pronouns on the Operations Relations Meeting agendas. Is this something we would like to do, if so what is everyone's preferred pronouns?

CERVANTES mentioned how important inclusive language is for the GSS. CERVANTES proposed we add this to GSS email signatures and incorporate in other GSS meetings. The Executive members provided pronouns in the chat to RUSHFORD to inform to the operations relations pronouns.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: RUSHFORD

RUSHFORD informed that met with Jamie Cassels and he is very supportive of the GSS Annual plan. RUSHFORD asked about the official announcement coming about the plans to be online in the Spring term. RUSHFORD talked about the elections to the FGS Council for four grad students (Master and PHD).

Director of Communications: CERVANTES

"August was one of my busiest months since I started at the GSS; we are prepared for September and the new academic term. CERVANTES worked in the planning for the orientation sessions, the handbook and a video to share online with new and returning students and let them know more about the GSS I have to express that the handbook project took a lot of time this month, but I am glad that we took the opportunity to make it more colourful, creative, and enjoyable. It took many hours to work through with new designs and graphic-visual work, but it will also help the branding strategy (fonts, logos, etc.) with a long-term vision. I also worked closer to the Student Wellness Centre in a filming project to promote the new location and services. I participated in the human rights policy advisory committee and student engaged meetings. Furthermore, I had my one-on-one session with Sarah Daviau in zoom to receive more training on organizing efficient meetings as part of the training by Volunteer Victoria. Finally, I met with the exec team for our work sessions towards the annual plan strategy."

Director of Finance: HUNT

HUNT reported on the hiring process progress: anonymizing the applications, extending the posting and trying to reach a broader range of applicants. HUNT will meet with Volunteer Victoria to explore next steps. HUNT reported that the Liquor licence has been rejected and he will update about it in the next meeting.

Director of Services: ROSE

ROSE informed that students are first place and because there are online they need support to use digital platforms and other University mechanisms. ROSE talked about a mentorship program where students can support each other and keep in the right track to continue on with their education. ROSE has been working also in public online events. ROSE informed about the French Cinema.

RUSHFORD pointed out the importance of respecting the Events Committee's decision to continue or discontinue events.

Director of Events: GUDINO reported on the orientations sessions.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, TABLED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

RUSHFORD – Proposal for the GSS to join the Indigenous Cultural Acumen Training (ICAT).

HUNT – Liquor License update.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Next Executive Meeting: September 21, 2020

GRC and General Meetings are schedule as follows: Sep 29, Oct 27, Nov 24 Dec 15, Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 23.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: *RESOLVED* to adjourn the meeting.

Approved by *CONSENT*.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

MC/klp/dtr

X 

Drake Rushford

GSS Chair 2020-21

X *matilde cervantes*

Matilde Cervantes

GSS Director of Communications and Vice-Chair