*University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society*

Executive Board

## (Online via Blackboard) MEETINg minutes

## October 19th, 2020

**EXECUTIVE ATTENDING:** Drake RUSHFORD**,** Chair; Matty CERVANTES, Director of Communications; Jacob HUNT, Director of Finance; Daniel GUDINO, Director of Services; Antoine ROSE, Director of Student Affairs.

**VACANT:** Executive Director (non-voting) position.

# Standing Items

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 with RUSHFORD in the chair.

GUDINO volunteered to take minutes. Rushford provided a land acknowledgment.

## Approval of the Agenda

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: ROSE/CERVANTES

CARRIED.

## Approval of minutes

Motion: RESOLVED that the minutes from the September 21st and October 5th, 2020 Executive Board meetings are approved as presented.

M/S: HUNT/ROSE

CARRIED.

## Business arising from previous meetings

June 16th:

TASK: RUSHFORD to circulate the draft inter-university letter to Executive. (Aug. 4th update: Letter not yet received.) – completed

 July 21st:

TASK: CERVANTES and BARNEY will work on a template for the selfies (Defender alternative). – completed

 August 4th:

TASK: RUSHFORD to respond to student and will write to the premier reminding him that students may have out-of-province plates. – completed responded to student, letter to premier abandoned

 September 1st:

TASK: RUSHFORD to forward questions regarding Executive Training feedback to Executive. Executive are to provide feedback. – completed

 September 21st:

TASK: RUSHFORD to arrange for Executive to meet with EQHR on September 29, 2020. – completed

 October 5th:

TASK: RUSHFORD to follow up with Faculty Association on all candidate’s forum. – completed

1. Committee appointments

Motion: RESOLVED to elect Daniel Gudino as a graduate representative to the 2020-21 Appointment Committee for the Dean of Graduate Studies.

M/S: HUNT/ROSE

CARRIED.

**TASK: HUNT to review the ToR for Appointment Committee for Vice-Provost and put name forward at GRC if he is able to attend all the meetings.**

1. Correspondence received

No correspondence.

1. Agenda planning, or meeting debrief (GRC, operational relations etc.)
2. Operations Relations
	* 1. Athletics Fee
3. GRC Planning

Motion: RESOLVED the GSS Executive request that GRC reconsider the motion passed in July requiring all non-confidential documents posted on the GSS website.

M/S: RUSHFORD/ROSE

CARRIED.

Motion: RESOLVED that the October 27th GRC Agenda will include:

* Revisit motion to require all non-confidential Connect documents be uploaded to the website
* From Stipend Review: Increasing Exec Stipend rate to match current TA rate
* From Stipend Review: Discuss the size of SRC
* International Student VPN use
* Mi'kmaq right to fish

M/S: CERVANTES/HUNT

CARRIED.

Discussion:

Update was provided from RUSHFORD, CERVANTES and GUDINO’s meeting on uploading non-confidential documents to the website. General agreement for GRC to revise the motion, as the wording/direction does not represent the intended spirit.

Regarding GRC agenda item from SRC: questions raised on the impact of increasing the Executive stipend on GSS financial stability. It was noted that if this decision will pass, it would most likely affect the next board, and Finance Committee would have to include this as an item for discussion for next year’s budget.

VPN item submissions related to the GSS writing a letter to the UVIC administration and requiring any GSS task force investigating international student concerns consider the use of the VPN by students in China.

# Meeting Business

## AVP Training

Motion: RESOLVED the GSS Executive request a training session from the University’s Anti-Violence Prevention Project focused on supporting victims of violence for the GSS Executive and staff.

M/S: GUDINO/HUNT

CARRIED

Discussion: GSS staff and Executive as first point of contacts with students would benefit from specific training on development of skills and resources for students undergoing situations related to intimate partner violence, and other forms of violence. This would complement EQHR and Cultural Competence training.

**TASK: GUDINO to talk to AVP to tailor a training session for GSS staff and Executive.**

## Health Plan Coordinator's Hours

Motion: RESOLVED the GSS Health Plan Coordinator's Hours are increased by an additional 12 hours per week for the weeks of October 19th and October 26th for a total increase of 24 hours.

M/S: HUNT/ROSE

CARRIED

Discussion: Considering Canadian Government’s change in international student arrival, there will be extra work to review student’s health and dental extended plans. HUNT advises this will not affect Society’s financial balance.

**TASK: Hunt draft a memo to Ingrid about this item.**

# Closing Items

## Executive informal discussion/updates/questions

Chair: RUSHFORD – Joined Jim Dunsdon and UVSS on Committee regarding student experiences during the COVID pandemic. Mentioned resuming “Meet the GSS Chair” and has created a zoom link. Report on participation on the Graduate Recruitment, Retention and Success Implementation Committee, focused on trying to attract grad students to UVIC. Report that Bylaw Committee met and will transfer to Zoom meetings now.

Director of Communications: CERVANTES – Reported attendance and work at Human Rights Committee and Faculty Grad Studies Committee. Referenced work with Neil BARNEY on branding manual for GSS, as well as contact with grad secretaries. Will update the outdoor sign with new AGM date. Work done on social media about upcoming BC candidates forum.

Director of Finance: HUNT – Provided an update on the ED search and the Finance Committee. Noted that the Finance Committee is comprised of non-finance majors so a goal for the committee is to make the financial information more accessible.

Director of Services: GUDINO – First meeting with Events Committee. Two themes to focus on: speaker series of events, and a survey to understand how students can engage in an online space. Will continue to revise functionality of Wednesday Coffee. Will reach out to Communications to address issues regarding the publicity of events.

Director of Student Affairs: ROSE – Mentioned a PhD student that contacted him regarding issues with their supervisor. Stated interest in bringing the issue to the Student Affairs committee. RUSHFORD requested to be briefed on the situation to provide further guidance on how to best proceed and whether it was necessary to bring to Student Affairs.

Notice of motions, agenda items for next executive meeting

None.

## Upcoming meetings and important dates

Next Executive Meeting: November 2nd.

Adjournment

Motion: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: CERVANTES/ROSE

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

dgp/dtr/klp

