*University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society*

Executive Board

## (Online via Blackboard) MEETING MINUTES – Approved

## December 7, 2020

**EXECUTIVE PRESENT:** Drake RUSHFORD**,** Chair; Matty CERVANTES, Director of Communications; Jacob HUNT, Director of Finance; Daniel GUDIÑO, Director of Services; Antoine ROSE, Director of Student Affairs, Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (ex-officio).

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Chet PHILIPS, GVAT; Liam MACCLURE, GVAT

# Standing Items

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:09pm with RUSHFORD in the chair. Land acknowledgement offered by RUSHFORD.

## Nov. 17 2021 extraordinary motion via email – fgs orientation

The following motion was accidently left off the November 16, 2021 Executive Board agenda. Due to timing, RUSHFORD circulated the motion via email on November 17.

Motion: RESOLVED that the GSS will participate in a grad workshop with the FGS from 10:30 - 11:30am on January 5th.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the GSS will participate in the welcome programming run between January 6th -8th.

M/S: GUDINO/RUSHFORD

RUSHFORD, GUDIÑO, CERVANTES and HUNT participated in the email vote.

CARRIED.

## Approval of the Agenda

*Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.*

*M/S CERVANTES/ROSE*

*CARRIED*

## Approval of minutes

*Motion: RESOLVED that the minutes from the* [*November 16th, 2020 Executive Board meeting*](https://connect.uvic.ca/sites/vpac/studentaffairs/GSS/GradCouncil/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/sites/vpac/studentaffairs/GSS/GradCouncil/Document/2016-2017%20Grad%20Council%20Documents/2016-17%20Grad%20Council%20Minutes/2017-07-25%20GRC%20Minutes%20DRAFT.docx&action=default) *are approved as presented.*

*M/S ROSE/HUNT*

*CARRIED*

## Business arising from previous meetings

Important: Please review all tasks assigned to CERVANTES for re-assignment.

1. committee appointments

Motion: RESOLVED to elect Greg Gaube as the graduate student representative to the UVic Chemistry Chair Search Committee.   
Motion: RESOLVED to elect Molly Henneberry as the graduate student representative to the 2020-21 UVic Transition to Online Committee.

M/S CERVANTES/GUDIÑO

CARRIED.

Motion: RESOLVED to elect Daniel GUDIÑO as the graduate student representative to the 2020-21 UVic Mandatory Temporary Medical Insurance Opt Out Appeal Committee.  
Motion: RESOLVED to elect Drake RUSHORD as the graduate student representative to the 2020-21 UVic Integrated Steering Committee for UVic's Climate Sustainability Action Plan.

M/S CERVANTES/HUNT

CARRIED.

Note: Need to reassign Matty CERVANTES's committees at next meeting.

1. correspondence received

Motion: RESOLVED to elect Kyla TURNER or their designate as the GSS voting representative at the 2020 Volunteer Victoria general meeting.

M/S RUSHFORD/HUNT

CARRIED

Motion: RESOLVED that the Executive Director November Report is accepted by the Executive Board.

M/S HUNT/ROSE

CARRIED

Motion: RESOLVED that the correspondence presented has been received by the Executive Board.

M/S CERVANTES/ROSE

CARRIED.

1. Agenda planning, or meeting debrief (GRC, operational relations etc.)
2. GRC Agenda – December 15th
   1. Communications Election
   2. Electoral Officer Election
   3. Department Grant Eligibility

**Follow-up TASKS assigned: GUDIÑO, RUSHFORD, TURNER, and JIANG to meet to discuss Health and Dental Communication with members.**

# meeting Business

## 2020-21 department grant fund

Motion: RESOLVED that applications for 2020-21 Department Grants will be accepted Jan. 1-March 31, 2021, as per the eligibility criteria, conditions, and maximum grant amounts presented, with allowances for minor adjustments based on feedback from Grad Council.

M/S: GUDIÑO/ROSE

Discussion:

GUDIÑO The updated criteria seeks to improve conditions to establish or strengthen a unit association, with a slightly smaller amount for academic/social events.

CERVANTES The maximum amount for graduate student association development grant is $350.00 and $250 for COVID modified department grant. Thanks to HUNT for attending initial meeting.

CARRIED

**TASK: GUDIÑO to prepare an update on the Department Grant Fund to present to Grad Council.**

**TASK: CERVANTES to write an official announcement inviting submissions for the 2020-21 Department Grants, provide to Neil for the eBulletin, and Grad Council listserve (to be sent after GRC).**

**TASK: CERVANTES to re-write the Department Grant Fund webpage.**

**TASK: GUDIÑO to write up a case example of how SDH developed its academic unit grad student association with the support of the GSS Department Grants.**

Motion: RESOLVED that beginning in the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Department Grant Fund will be known as the Graduate Students’ Academic Unit Community Building Fund.

M/S: CERVANTES/GUDIÑO

Discussion:

CERVANTES This name is already in use in our University community.

RUSHFORD I feel this should be tabled to give more time to think of alternative names.

Motion: RESOLVED that the Executive Board supports tabling of the motion until the new calendar year in order to consider alternative names.

M/S: RUSHFORD/GUDIÑO

CARRIED

Naming Motion Tabled.

## registering as a lobbyist

Motion: WHEREAS the Lobbyists Transparency Act (LTA) came into effect May 4, 2020 and requires all organizations engaged in lobbying activity to register with the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists BC and;

WHEREAS “lobby” is defined in the LTA as “to communicate with a public office holder in an attempt to influence” or “to arrange a meeting between a public office holder and any other individual for the purpose of attempting to influence any of the matters referred to in paragraph (a) of this definition” and;

WHEREAS all organizations engaged in lobbying activities have ten (10) days to file a new registration with the Office of Registrar of Lobbyists BC after beginning to lobby and;

WHEREAS the GSS’s staff and Executive engage in lobbying activities;

RESOLVED that the GSS designates the Executive Director as their Designated Filer for their registration with the Registry;

FURTHER RESOLVED that Executive Board members will report lobbying activities to the Executive Director monthly.

M/S: HUNT/ROSE

CARRIED

**TASK: TURNER to register as a lobbyist and submit monthly reports.**

## GREATER VICTORIA ACTING TOGETHER (gvAT) PRESENTATION

Presentation summary: Chet PHILIPS: GVAT is a network of 33 organizations including student unions, front line organizations, unions, etc. Its parent organization is Industrial Areas Foundation Northwest. It focuses on collective action campaigns. They form Action Research Teams (ARTs) for primary issues which currently include: affordable housing, climate change & climate justice, and access to mental health and addictions care. GSS could bring issues to GVAT and have members engage in campaigns. GVAT offers leadership and community training, mentorship and co-op opportunities, and lobbying.

Discussion:

ROSE: In agreement with collective action and working together to improve community wellbeing. It’s essential to ensure proposals for change go to government officials.

RUSHFORD: How do we maintain continuity going across boards? How does the GSS come to GVAT for support?

PHILIPS: The member would raise the issue to GVAT in a delegate monthly or urgent meeting.  
GUDIÑO: How do we access trainings, especially for members who graduate?  
PHILIPS: Trainings are offered to GVAT network when they become available and any GSS member could attend. I want to know how to get the word out to members.

GUDIÑO: How do we access research opportunities through GVAT? What are the research opportunities?

**TASK: RUSHFORD to set motion to either continue or discontinue membership with GVAT.**

## holiday closure

**TASK: TURNER to provide names and contact numbers to Campus Security, Facilities, Staff and Board.**

## director of communications transition

Committees to be reassigned or vacancies that need to be filled

* FGS Council
* EQHR Policy Advisory Committee

Motion: RESOLVED that the Executive Board will meet at 3:00pm on December 21st, 2020

M/S: RUSHFORD/HUNT  
CARRIED.

## signing officers

Motion: RESOLVED that Kyla TURNER will be designated as a signing officer for the GSS.

M/S: HUNT/CERVANTES

CARRIED.

## approve solidarity statement with mi’kmaq people

REF DOC: CERVANTES's Solidarity Statement with the Mi'kmaq people

Motion: RESOLVED that the Solidarity Statement with the Mi’kmaq people is approved

M/S: HUNT/CERVANTES

CARRIED.

**TASK: CERVANTES to communicate with Neil BARNEY on the release of Solidarity Statement.**

## SFU Post Graduate Work Permit Letter

REF DOC: [letter](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15Eew3DaI_5gIDtPqipTQbX1riAOi-WwkuIC5ajSsAo0/edit)

Motion: RESOLVED that the GSS signs the Post Graduate Work Permit Letter prepared by the SFU GSS.

M/S: GUDIÑO/ROSE

Discussion:  
CERVANTES: This is an important issue for us to address in this manner.  
GUDIÑO: Seconding CERVANTES comments.

CARRIED

**TASK: Neil BARNEY to post letter on website as of Friday.**

## orientation

Motion: RESOLVED that the GSS will participate in a grad workshop with the FGS from 10:30 - 11:30am on January 5th.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the GSS will participate in the welcome programming run between January 6th -8th.

M/S: GUDIÑO/RUSHFORD

CARRIED.

# Closing Items

## Executive informal discussion/updates/questions

Chair: RUSHFORD: Working with GSSes of BC on website and MOU. The MOU will be ready for approval in January.

Director of Communications: CERVANTES: Regret missing the AGM. Worked on: Giving Tuesday event, the Mi’kmaq Solidarity Statement, updating the outdoor marquee sign, and department grants.

Director of Finance: HUNT: Nothing to report.

Director of Services: GUDIÑO: In Graduate Executive Committee, GARO reported that they are processing 2500 applications for graduate studies, compared to 1600 last year. In January, I’ll be working with orientations.

Director of Student Affairs: ROSE: Dealing with one student facing serious problem with PhD supervisor. I connected this student to the ombudsperson.

Executive Director: TURNER: Please see monthly report.

Notice of motions, tabled agenda items for next executive meeting

BIRT that beginning in the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Department Grant Fund will be known as the Graduate Students’ Academic Unit Community Building Fund.

## Upcoming meetings and important dates

Karen holidays/lieu time: December 15-18.

GSS re-opens ‘online’: Monday, January 4, 2021 at 10 am.

UPass Opt-Ins/Outs for Winter term: available December 15-18, 2020, and again from Jan. 4-31, 2021.

Health and Dental Insurance Opt-Ins/Outs (only for graduate students beginning their programs in January) will be accepted January 4-31, 2021.

Next Executive Meetings: December 21st, 2020, 3pm

adjournment

Motion: RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

M/S HUNT/CERVANTES

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10.

KT/klp/KT/KLP

