

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
Graduate Representative Council
([ONLINE VIA ZOOM](#)) MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2021, 5-7 PM

Elected Academic Unit Reps (1 vote per academic unit) Present:

Anthropology: Robert Gustas	Economics: Gerard Mu, Brooklynn Trimble	Social Dimensions of Health: Courtney Majewski
Art History & Visual Studies: Mel Granley	Electrical & Computer Engineering: Alexandros Dimopoulos	Other Reps Attending: CUPE 4163: Christine Todd
Biochemistry & Microbiology: Michael Allison	French: Tiffany Kuo (Electoral Officer)	Guests: Jacob Hunt, GSS Member, 2020-21 Director of Finance Zahra Afshari, GSS Member Ryan Khan, GSS Member
Biology: Nicholas Planidin	History: Michelle Snidal	
Chemistry: Gregory Gaube, Archita Adluri	Medical Sciences (Neuroscience): Hannah Reid	
Civil Engineering: Aryia Eini	Nursing: Erin Donald	
Earth & Ocean Sciences: Chrissy Schellenberg	Physics & Astronomy: Bobby Bickley	
	Psychology: Thomas Ferguson	

GSS Executive Board (1 vote per elected board member) Present:

Chair: David FOSTER	Director of Services: Adair NG
Director of Communications: Nicole KENT	Director of Student Affairs: Nahid SAFARI
Director of Finance: vacant	Executive Director: Kyla TURNER (non-voting)

Recorder: GSS Governance Coordinator: Karen L. Potts

Regrets Received:

Educational Psychology & Leadership: Lauren Petersen
English: Elyse Loewen
Geography: Brianna Brandon

Absent Without Notice or Alternate:

Germanic & Slavic Studies: Rachel Colquhoun
Law: Adekunle (Kunle) Adewumi
Music: Tiess McKenzie
Pacific & Asian Studies: Maeve Milligan
Political Science: Brianna Parent-Long
Public Administration: Amanda Leclerc, Luisa Trux, Hannah Kim
Sociology: Talya Jespersen, Mandana Karimi
Visual Arts: Liam O'Sullivan

CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm with FOSTER in the chair.

ALISON offered a land acknowledgement.

STANDING ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.

Amendment: Elections to Finance Committee moved to after the Director of Finance election.

M/S FOSTER/TRIMBLE

Amendment APPROVED by Consent.

Amendment: Add election of a rep to Humanities Search Committee to UVic Committees agenda item.

M/S FOSTER/KUO

Amendment APPROVED by Consent.

Amendment: Replace today's cancelled presentation by Dr. Krull, with a motion to establish a consultation session at a date to be determined by GRC members.

M/S FOSTER/KUO

Amendment APPROVED by Consent.

Amendment: Remove two award committee motions until formal requests are received.

M/S FOSTER/ALISON

Amendment APPROVED by Consent.

MOTION: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as amended.

M/S FOSTER/None.

Motion as Amended, APPROVED by Consent.

2. TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER (NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER)

KHAN volunteered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: RESOLVED that the Minutes from the January 26th, 2021 and the February 23rd, 2021 Grad Council meetings are approved with minor corrections provided:

- *Correct Planidin spelling*
- *Academic Integrity Committee should be Academic Standards Committee*

M/S FOSTER/SHELLENBERG

APPROVED by Consent.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/PAST MEETINGS

None.

5. REPORTS

A. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

GSS Membership: As of April 13, 2021 there are 3011 GSS Members.

GRC Membership: Since the February 23, 2021 GRC meeting, there have been 0 resignations and 0 new elected Councillors.

GRC now consists of 35 voting members: 28 academic units (out of 47 academic units eligible), 1 additional academic unit, CUPE, and 5 Executive Board representatives.

Meeting Quorum: With 4 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 16.

B. CHAIR'S REMARKS (APPENDIX A)

FOSTER provided his first remarks as Chair, with the recent election of the 2021-22 GSS Executive. His full remarks are attached as Appendix A.

C. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO APPROVE

MOTION: RESOLVED that Grad Council approves the Executive Board Reports received for the month of March 2021.

M/S PLANIDIN/KUO

APPROVED by Consent.

D. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Appeals: No report.
- Bylaw & Policy: FOSTER reported anticipating a busy year ahead finishing old business, such as the revisions to the Governance Manual and drafting a new Policy on Policies. FOSTER highlighted his personal interest in incorporating academic unit associations and considering changes to the GRC composition.
- Communications: KENT reminded Committee members of the scheduled meetings every second Friday. Work on the handbook is going well.
- Events: NG reported that the Events Committee has met. They anticipate more collaborations with the Global Community and a summer academic/research share activity. Anyone interested in helping with events, please contact her: gssserv@uvic.ca.
- Finance: No report.
- Student Affairs: SAFARI reported that the Committee will meet later this week.

- Stipend Review: PLANIDIN reported that the Committee is still getting feedback for its Executive job description review. PLANIDIN will be resigning this month and the Committee will need a replacement to function. They will also be electing a new Chair.
- Ad Hoc Committees: TURNER asked that anyone interested in the new EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Committee email her at gssmg@uvic.ca.
- Electoral Officer: No report.

FOSTER reminded GRC members of their responsibility to attend committee meetings, as per GSS policy, and if not able to attend to stay in communication with their Committee Chair.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

*MOTION: RESOLVED that the resignation of Brooklyn TRIMBLE from the Bylaw and Policy Committee is accepted effective April 30, 2021.
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one GRC member to the Bylaw and Policy Committee to take office on May 1, 2021.
FURTHER RESOLVED that [GRC member elected to take office May 1, 2021] is elected as a Committee Member at Large to the Bylaw and Policy Committee for the period from April 20, 2021 to April 30, 2021.
M/S FOSTER/TRIMBLE*

No nominations were received by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.

No vote, approval question taken.

*MOTION: RESOLVED that Adair NG is deemed to have resigned as a GRC member on the Events Committee due to her election as Director of Services;
FURTHER RESOLVED that the resignations of Maeve MILLIGAN and Mandana KARIMI from the Events Committee are accepted effective immediately;
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect three GRC members to the Events Committee.
M/S NG/SAFARI*

No vote, approval question taken.

*Motion: RESOLVED that Bobby BICKLEY be ratified to the Events Committee.
M/S FOSTER/TRIMBLE
APPROVED by Consent.*

*MOTION: RESOLVED that the resignation of Nicholas PLANIDIN from the Stipend Review Committee is accepted;
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one GSS member to the Stipend Review Committee.**

** Does not have to be a GRC member, as per GSS Committee Terms of Reference 2.7.3*

M/S FOSTER/none

Amendment: PLANIDIN's resignation is effective April 30th and a new member elected would begin May 1st.

M/S FOSTER/KUO

Amendment APPROVED by Consent.

Discussion:

Planidin explained that the SRC must have 3 active members to have quorum. Therefore the Committee needs 3 active and attending members to review the Executive Board reports and ensure stipends can be dispersed to the Executive.

No vote, approval question taken on amended motion.

E. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES – VACANCIES

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Omnibus:

MOTION: RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the Vikes Nation Advisory Council.

MOTION: RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the Make Transit Work Campaign.

MOTION: RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the Advisory Committee on Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities.

MOTION: RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the 2021 Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Leadership and the Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching Adjudication Committee.

MOTION: RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the 2021 Award for Excellence in Teaching for Experiential Learning Adjudication Committee.

M/S FOSTER/BICKLEY

No vote, approval question taken on motion.

MOTION: to have a 5 minute break .

M/S SCHELLENBERG/EINI

APPROVED by Consent.

BREAK

5:59 pm break.

Meeting reconvened at 6:04 pm.

Discussion resumed on omnibus motion for nominations to various UVic committees.

With no volunteers to be nominated to the committees, FOSTER recommended that these vacancies be referred to the Executive Board to be filled as there is only two months left to the term.

*Motion: RESOLVED that the resignation of Antoine ROSE from the Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching and the Wellness Education and Health Promotion Advisory Committee is accepted effective March 31, 2021.
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the 2020-21 Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching.
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the 2020-21 Wellness Education and Health Promotion Advisory Committee.
M/S None/None*

There were no volunteers. No vote taken.

*Motion: RESOLVED that the resignation of Brooklyn TRIMBLE from the Senate Committee on Planning, the Multifaith Services Advisory Board, the Child Care Services Advisory Board and the Social Sciences Equity and Diversity Committee is accepted effective immediately.
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the 2020-21 Senate Committee on Planning.
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the 2020-21 Multifaith Services Advisory Board.
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student representative to the 2020-21 Child Care Services Advisory Board.
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one graduate student in Social Sciences to the 2020-21 Social Sciences Equity and Diversity Committee.
M/S None/None*

There were no volunteers. No vote taken.

*Motion: To accept the nomination of, and ratify, Michelle SNIDAL to the Humanities Dean Search Committee.
M/S TRIMBLE/KUO
APPROVED by Consent.*

REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES:

Senate: Joseph Martin provided a written report. See Appendix B.

No further reports.

F. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

None.

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. ACADEMIC UNIT GRANTS

Lead: Kyla TURNER

REF DOCS: [2021-22 Academic Unit Grant Application form](#)

TURNER reported that applications are now being accepted for the 2021-22 GSS Academic Unit Grants, which will continue to have two streams. TURNER also noted that the application form has conditions regarding any potential to return to in-person grants. While TURNER administered the 2021-22 grants, POTTS, Governance Coordinator, will return to administering the grants for 2021-22.

3. UVIC STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Motion: RESOLVED that the GRC schedules a consultation session with Dr. Krull on a proposed date to be determined by members.

M/S FOSTER/KUO

APPROVED by Consent.

A poll of optional dates and times was presented. Members in attendance expressed preference to meet on May 6, 2021 from 9-10 am.

4. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE ELECTION

2020-21 Director of Finance, Jacob HUNT, provided an overview of the role of the GSS Director of Finance, and shared what he personally gained from filling the role for a year.

*MOTION: RESOLVED that GSS Policy 4.2.b is suspended.**

** Note: Policy 4.2.b states that if the GRC decides to fill a vacancy on the Executive Board, the election for the vacancy will occur at the following GRC meeting.*

FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one GSS member as Director of Finance.

M/S FOSTER/DONALD

CARRIED

The meeting was turned over to Tiffany KUO, GSS Electoral Officer, to preside over the election for the 2021-22 GSS Director of Finance.

KUO noted that all host controls on the Zoom meeting have been removed except for KUO and TURNER to ensure confidentiality of voting.

KUO noted that the first call for nominations had been submitted by email to all GSS members. After two more calls for nominations from the floor, two nominations were received and accepted, with both candidates determined to be eligible:

- Ryan KHAN
- Zahra AFSHARI

KUO closed nominations and requested that TURNER prepare the electronic ballot.

Both candidates introduced themselves and provided their qualifications for the position to the members presented.

After an anonymous, secret ballot, KUO declared that Ryan KHAN was elected as the 2021-22 GSS Director of Finance.

KUO thanked both candidates for their interest.

5. GRC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

MOTION: RESOLVED that the resignation of Gerard MU from the Finance Committee is accepted effective immediately;
FURTHER RESOLVED that nominations be opened to elect one GRC member to the Finance Committee.
Friendly Amendment: FURTHER RESOLVED to accept the resignation of Liam O'Sullivan from the Finance Committee.
M/S FOSTER/KUO

There were no volunteers. No vote taken.

CLOSING ITEMS

COMMITTEE AND GRC MEMBER RESIGNATIONS

FOSTER asked anyone who was graduating etc. and not able to continue on GRC over the summer semester to send in their resignations.

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

Check your GRC Connect homepage calendar!

Next GRC meeting: June 8, 2021

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION

None.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

ADJOURNMENT

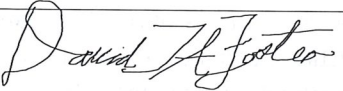
MOTION: RESOLVED that the meeting is adjourned.

M/S FOSTER/TRIMBLE

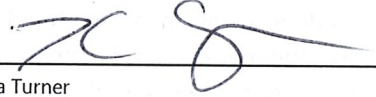
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

klp/KT

X 

David Foster
GSS Chair 2021-22

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX A: CHAIR'S REMARKS

As reported by David Foster, GSS Chair 2021-22 at the April 20, 2021 meeting of the GRC:

- Exec Board has committed to taking EQHR, Indigenous Cultural Acumen and Sexualized Violence training by June 15. These were committed by the previous Exec Board but never implemented. We hope receiving these trainings can help us better serve our membership.
- The Board voted on April 7 to continue to moratorium on in-person GSS events that was established in Summer 2020 by the previous Board. There will be no in-person events until the Board or GRC votes to do otherwise. For the purposes of academic unit grants, an in-person event may be conditionally approved for later in the year, but it could only go forward if the GSS position on in-person events has changed prior to the event.
- The Executive Director has implemented new public health orders on remote work for GSS staff.
- On April 19, GSSBC met with Coralee Oakes, MLA, the Official Opposition critic for Advanced Education. The meeting included representation from UBC, SFU, UNBC and UVic. Major themes discussed were the lack of needs-based grants for grad students, who do not get the same support as undergrad students; decreases in government funding for post-secondary education over time; and concerns relating to the return to in-person classes in September.
- GSSBC representatives reflected that their members are generally not supportive of a full return to in-person classes. Reasons include health of students who are older or more at risk; international students being unable to attend in-person due to travel restrictions; and the cost and inconvenience for students who have moved away from the location of their school having to move back. MLA Oakes found the example of an international student unable to return to Canada due to travel restrictions in their country to be powerful. MLA Oakes observed that the need for hybrid classes has not been delivered to government.
- GSSBC representatives also discussed a specific campaign effort for international students. Concerns regarding tuition, remote and in-person class issues and work permits were identified.

APPENDIX B: REPORTS OF GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Report from Joseph Martin, Elected UVic Graduate Student Senator, received April 20, 2021:

Senate Committee on Agenda and Governance

I am the sole student representative on this committee and believe its importance is underappreciated. Aside from setting the agenda, approving committee appointments, and acting as a first sounding board for the university administration on all issues before the Senate, under the current Emergency Protocol this committee has also approved urgent motions on behalf of the entire Senate which this term included: changes to the law school curriculum, extension of tuition deadlines, and guidelines for returning to class in the Fall. I believe that the next student representative be they from UVSS or GSS should continue my early efforts to increase the amount of students on this committee. Currently it is me (representing all students) and 15 Senators representing staff, faculty, and administration.

UVic Committee on Convocation

There has only been one meeting since I was appointed. Current efforts are being made to improve the quality of degree parchment and questions are being raised in the long term as to whether to keep the invocation and national anthem as part of the convocation ceremony.

If you have any questions or any come up, please feel free to reach out!

Joseph Martin
MSc Student
School of Earth and Ocean Sciences
University of Victoria

