

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2021

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: David FOSTER, Chair; Nicole KENT, Director of Communications; Adair NG, Director of Services; Nahid SAFARI, Director of Student Affairs; Ryan KHAN, Director of Finance (partial); Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting).

GUESTS: Tiffany KUO, Electoral Officer (partial)

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:31PM with FOSTER in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by NG.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as amended to move Committee Appointments and Old Business: Scheduling to after New Business items 2 and 3; and Insert UVSS Letter re: return to campus as a discussion item under Correspondence.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

M/S for amendments: FOSTER/SAFARI

APPROVED BY CONSENT

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the April 28, 2021 Executive Board Meeting are approved with the correction to spelling for the Societies Act.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED BY CONSENT

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

TASKS Completed:

None reported

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: RESOLVED nominations be opened for graduate student representatives to the following University of Victoria committees for 2021-22:

Senate Committee on Academic Standards – 1 member (incumbent: Erin DONALD)

Senate Committee on Appeals – 1 member (incumbent: Daniel GUDINO)

*Senate Committee on Awards – 1 member**

Senate Committee on Continuing Studies – 1 member (incumbent: Jeffrey BRUTON)

Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching – 1 member (incumbent: Nicole KENT)

*Senate Committee on Libraries – 1 member**

Senate Committee on Planning – 1 member (incumbent: Adair NG)

**Incumbents on these committees are not continuing as GSS members or do not wish to seek another term.*

MS: FOSTER/KENT

Nominations:

- Senate Committee on Academic Standards: Erin DONALD (incumbent)
- Senate Committee on Appeals: Daniel GUDIÑO (incumbent)
- Senate Committee on Continuing Studies: Jeffrey BRUTON (incumbent)
- Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching: Nicole KENT (incumbent)
- Senate Committee on Planning: Adair NG (incumbent)

Motion to Ratify:

Senate Committee on Academic Standards – Erin DONALD

Senate Committee on Appeals – Daniel GUDINO

Senate Committee on Continuing Studies – Jeffrey BRUTON

Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching – Nicole KENT

Senate Committee on Planning – Adair NG

M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Nominations for Senate Committee on Awards – Nahid SAFARI

Motion to Ratify:

Senate Committee on Awards – Nahid SAFARI

Tabled:

Senate Committee on Libraries

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED BY CONSENT

[KHAN present for Awards and Libraries nomination and ratification only.]

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Reference: UVSS seeking GSS support to advocate to the University around in-person classes in September.

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

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Discussion:

FOSTER discussed the BC-wide plans for COVID-19 safety on campus for in-person classes, including no distancing, masks required in other shared spaces, frequent cleaning, etc. UVic plans include off-campus options for learning, but no vaccination record required.

KENT requesting clarification around UVic safety plans.

FOSTER provided clarification that the Fall safety plan is still forthcoming and there is support available to students who cannot attend campus.

SAFARI requested additional supports for International students arriving in Canada. NG seconded these concerns.

TASK: SAFARI, NG, KENT and FOSTER to develop response to UVSS and propose and seek approval between Exec meetings via email. SAFARI, NG, KENT, FOSTER, KHAN to approve the letter via email.

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

1. OPERATIONAL RELATIONS MEETING MAY 10, 2021

Discussion:

FOSTER provided historical details on international tuition increases.

KENT requested clarification regarding UVic COVID-19 safety plans and timelines for discussing this at OR. TURNER recommended bringing it forward in mid-June in line with current BC COVID vaccine roll out for younger adults. FOSTER clarified that UVic can impose more safety measures beyond the BC guidelines.

[KHAN arrived 2:12pm]

2. GSSBC MAY MEETINGS

FOSTER provided an overview of GSSBC May meetings to elect a GSSBC 2021-22 Chair and welcome to newly elected members.

OLD BUSINESS

1. SCHEDULING

Motion: RESOLVED the following dates are set for Executive Board training sessions:

Sexualized Violence on Friday, June 4, 2021 from 9:00 am

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Tabled trainings to schedule:

- EQHR
- Indigenous Cultural Acumen
- Labour Relations

TASK: KENT to schedule Sexualized Violence Training with the Anti-Violence Project.

NEW BUSINESS

2. INDIGENOUS CULTURAL ACUMEN TRAINING (ICAT) JOINTLY WITH UVSS

[KHAN not present]

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors shall hold its ICAT training separately from the UVSS, and in accordance with the Board of Directors' previous decision to hold this training by June 15, 2021.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED BY CONSENT

3. SCHEDULING

[KHAN not present]

Motion: RESOLVED the following motion passed at the April 28, 2021 Board of Directors meeting is rescinded:

RESOLVED the following dates are set for General Meetings:

Tuesday, October 25, 2021

Tuesday, March 22, 2021

FURTHER RESOLVED the following dates are set for General Meetings:

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Tuesday, March 22, 2021

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Motion: RESOLVED the following date is schedule for an Executive Board Meeting:

Friday, May 14 at 12:00pm

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

Discussion:

FOSTER explained that we need to host a board meeting to discuss a potential referendum question regarding the Restaurant if we wish to put the question to the membership at the same time as Health and Dental referendum. As we are having a meeting regarding the restaurant on Friday, May 14, we should host a board meeting that day to draft referendum questions.

APPROVED BY CONSENT

4. GSS EXTENDED HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN REFERENDUM

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors schedules a referendum of the GSS membership from June 9 to 11, 2021 on the following questions:

1. *Do you support:*
 - a. *An increase to your Extended Health and Dental Plan fee to maintain part or all of your current coverage, as set out in Referendum Question 2; or*
 - b. *No increase to your Extended Health and Dental Plan fee, maintaining the current fee of \$654 per person and reducing dental coverage from 70% to 60%.*
2. *If Referendum Question 1a passes, do you support:*

- a. An increase to your Extended Health and Dental Plan fee of \$39.55/year (from \$654 to \$693.55/year) maintain your current coverage; or
- b. An increase to your Extended Health and Dental Plan fee of \$22.37/year (from \$654 to \$676.37/year) with the following two reductions:
 - i. Extended Health: Cap all paramedical services except psychology/counselling at a combined \$500/year (rather than \$250 per service type). Maintain psychology/counselling coverage at \$500/year; and
 - ii. Dental: Maintain 70% coverage but decrease total annual coverage to \$550/calendar year

FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Directors schedules the following dates for a referendum of the Society membership:

Nominations open: May 19

Nominations close: May 26

Campaign period begins: May 27

Voting days: June 9 at 9am to June 11 at 4:30pm

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

CARRIED

5. WORK STUDY POSITIONS

REF DOCS: [WS Priority List](#), [GSOC1 Student Advocate](#), [GSOC2 Policy Researcher](#), [GSOC3 Communications/Website Assistant](#).

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors approves in principle the attached job postings for the GSS' application to the University of Victoria for three Work Study positions for 2021-22 at up to 340 hours each.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

Discussion:

TURNER provided background of the forthcoming Work Study Policy that includes approval in principle by the board followed by approval by the Labour Management Committee before an application is submitted to SAFA. These positions will support student peer workers and policy researchers to enhance our advocacy campaigns and capacity.

APPROVED BY CONSENT

[KHAN departed 2:59pm]

6. GSSBC REIMBURSEMENT

Reference: GSSBC sent an invoice for services rendered as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors reimburse GSSBC for a total of \$64.67.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

Discussion:

FOSTER explained our relationship with GSSBC and the expenses section of the Memorandum of Understanding.

APPROVED BY CONSENT

7. EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021/22 OFFICIAL MASCOT ELECTION 3:10

[KUO arrived at 3:06pm]

Motion: RESOLVED nominations be opened for the GSS Mascot 2021-22.

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Nominations:

Persephone Be-YELLS-ebub Turner (TURNER's cat)

Campus Deer

Nuts-are-Meat Cat

Results:

Persephone Be-YELLS-ebub Turner – 4 votes

Campus Deer – 0 votes

Nuts-are-Meat Cat – 1 vote

Persephone Be-YELLS-ebub Turner is recognized as the GSS Mascot 2021-22.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: FOSTER: Grad Exec Committee met yesterday to discuss PhD supervision. The issue is around creating more Indigenized committee structures that did not require a single primary supervisor or hierarchical committee structures.

Director of Communications: KENT: the VPAC committee is now proceeding with consultation. EQHR committee is meeting next week.

Director of Finance: KHAN no report.

Director of Services: NG: the Student Experience Working Group conflicts with a class. Can she send an alternate for the meeting? (TURNER clarified that alternate policies are set in the committee TOR). The International Strategical Consultation had low attendance, but further opportunities for consultation will be provided. Appeals Committee is scheduled. Events committee members have not yet responded to scheduling request.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI has had requests from students regarding funding and co-op options for international students. She recommends advocating for further industry partnerships to support international co-op students to establish work relationship in Canada. VP Academic and Provost hiring committee has met and discussed qualifications to focus on.

Executive Director: TURNER handling student cases re: supervision issues, UPASS opt outs, and medical expenses not covered by the Health and Dental Plan. Also completed a second draft of the Work Study Applications for this year. Other work includes the Health and Dental referendum included here.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Exec agenda items: 1. Debrief GSSBC May meetings, 2. social media advocacy dates.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

****Task Reminder:** Please be sure your meetings and events are up to date on the GRC Connect Calendar**

Next Executive Meetings: May 14, 2021, 12:00pm

Next Committees:

- Bylaw and Policy Committee, May 13, 2021, 5pm
- Communications Committee, May 14, 2021, 4pm

GRC Meetings: June 8, 2021

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre staffed only when needed. Office hours will be Monday-Thursday 10-4 until August 31, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 3:21pm.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED BY CONSENT

KT/klp/KT/kt

X

David Foster
GSS Chair 2021-22

X

Kyla Turner
Executive Director