

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

MAY 31, 2021

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

REGRETS: Nahid SAFARI, Director of Student Affairs

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:38PM with FOSTER in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by FOSTER. Further acknowledgement offered by FOSTER and TURNER and one minute of silence observed following the recent announcement of the uncovering of an unmarked, mass grave of 215 children at Kamloops Residential School . KENT and TURNER recommended preparing an official response and reach out to NSU and Indigenous campus supports to contribute to the education around residential schools at UVic and support for Indigenous peoples impacted by the discovery of this mass grave.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED to table the approval of the May 26, 2021 minutes.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED by Consent.

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOTIONS/TASKS noted as completed, or revoked:

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors revokes the following recommendation by the previous Board of Directors on March 17, 2021:

*That the next Board consider presenting the following motion to GRC:
"BIRT that the Executive Board approves one-time donations of the following amounts to these organizations:*

\$1500 to the University Food Bank

\$500 to CFUV

\$500 to University 101"

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

CARRIED

Complete Tasks: 2021-March-31:

TASK: All board members to submit complete Disclosure of Conflict of Interest by April 15, 2021.

TASK: Please be sure to enter all Executive, committee and major UVic meetings into the GRC Connect calendar.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No nominations received for the 2020-21 Make Transit Work Coalition and the 2020-21 Wellness Education and Health Promotion Advisory Committee. These vacancies will be brought to GRC June 8, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RESCINDMENT OF APPOINTMENTS

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors rescinds the appointments of Adair NG to the Senate Committee on Planning for 2021-22 and Jeffrey BRUTON to the Campus Planning Committee for 2021-22.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

Discussion:

TURNER clarified that the GSS procedures and bylaws were not followed in the appointment of these two committees.

APPROVED by Consent.

2. UVIC TUITION AND RESIDENCE RENT INCREASES

Reference: [UVic Tuition Letter May 2021](#)

Motion: as recommended by the Student Affairs Committee, RESOLVED the Board of Directors sends a letter to the UVic Board of Governors expressing opposition to the decisions to increase domestic and international tuition and residence rental rates during the pandemic.

M/S: SAFARI/FOSTER

3. APPROVED BY CONSENT.GVAT MEMBERSHIP

Reference: Invoices from GVAT sent to GSS for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

*Motion: WHEREAS the Society became a member of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) in 2019-20, and
WHEREAS GRC passed a motion on February 25, 2020 to table the Society's continued membership in GVAT indefinitely, and
WHEREAS GVAT has purported to charge the Society \$1200 while the Society is not an active member,
RESOLVED the Board of Directors recognizes that the Society's membership in GVAT ended in or before February 2020; and
FURTHER RESOLVED the Society will not renew its membership in GVAT; and*

FURTHER RESOLVED the Society will not pay any costs claimed by GVAT for 2020-21 or 2021-22.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

Discussion:

FOSTER provided background on GVAT, their purposes, and the GSS history with GVAT.

KHAN clarified that GVAT current campaigns do not align with GSS purposes or mandate. KHAN does not feel that the campaigns warranted \$1200 annual support on our end.

TURNER stated that very few members have engaged with GVAT.

FOSTER stated that GSSBC is a coalition that aligns more closely with our purposes in terms of encouraging collective advocacy.

CARRIED

4. GRC AGENDA

Reference: [June 8, 2021 GRC Agenda](#)

Motion: RESOLVED the GRC Agenda for June 8, 2021 is approved as presented.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

Discussion:

RE: Communications Committee: KENT provided a recap that she has scheduled meetings on the second Friday of February, March, April and May. She followed up each meeting with an email to all committee members requesting clarification as to their absences. She has requested member feedback on scheduling in February and again in April. Following the May meeting, KENT sent notice to all Communications Committee members that they have been deemed to have resigned. She has received feedback through FOSTER from one member who confirmed their resignation. Others members have not responded to notice that they have been deemed to have resigned.

Re: 2021-22 Campus Planning Committee: FOSTER clarified that BRUTON was elected in 2019, ceased to be a member in 2020 but still served on this committee, and sought re-election as an incumbent for 2021-22. TURNER clarified that BRUTON did not report to GRC or GSS during his term nor is he an incumbent to the committee as he was not elected by GSS in 2020-21.

KENT asked for clarity over our bylaws around members on leave serving on committees.

FOSTER stated that our policies only state that GSS representatives on committees “normally” be members of the society, but does not mandate that all GSS reps must be members. FOSTER states it was a failure of the last board to not check on every committee member during their term to confirm eligibility and sit for election again.

TURNER requested a motion to elect a member of the board. No voting members moved this motion.

DECISION: No changes to section F of the GRC agenda.

RE: Stipend Review Committee

TURNER recommended increasing size of Stipend Review Committee to enable quorum.

FOSTER stated this needed to be referred to Bylaw and Policy Committee.

APPROVED by Consent.

5. GRC LOGISTICS

Discussion:

FOSTER stated the chat monitor will monitor for seconding in the chat and the Chair will no longer wait for a motion to be seconded before it is discussed.

TURNER included a short list of topics brought forward by Karen Potts from the GRC motion log for the small group discussions. TURNER recommended coming up with pre-set questions on the following topics to ensure consistency across break out rooms: "Do you have any questions, comments concerns regarding:

1. International Student tuition and funding
2. Data security and the VPN
3. Medically high-risk student accommodation needs and return to on-campus"

FOSTER recommended focusing on return-to-campus planning and accommodations.

TASK: KHAN to serve as chat monitor for the June 8, 2021 GRC meeting.

6. REFERENDUM VOTING PROMOTION

Discussion:

TURNER asked board members to report how they were sharing information about the referendum. No reports received.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: FOSTER sent out email to board re: return to on-campus and the use of masks in work spaces and international student access to online learning.

Director of Communications: KENT is working diligently on the VP hiring committee. They have 15 meetings of 3 hours per meeting, so it is very work intensive. The Communications Committee member concerns have been reported above and new members will be elected on June 8 at GRC.

Director of Finance: KHAN working to resolve Vancity signing authority issues and supporting the referendum Town Hall.

Director of Services: NG still excited by the amount of work being planned and implemented by the Events committee

Director of Student Affairs: The GSS board formally welcomed Nahid to Canadian soil! We are excited to have you here and wish you safe travels in your journey to Victoria.

Executive Director: TURNER please see written [May report](#).

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

GRC Recruitment and Orientation Planning

GRC Committee Chairing Training

Executive Board Reports

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 Meeting: June 23, 2021, 1:30pm

GRC Meetings: June 8, 2021

AGM: October 26, 2021

Referendum Dates: June 9, 10 and 11, 2021

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre staffed only when needed. Office is closed Fridays until September.

Next Operational Relations Meeting?

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 3:34pm.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

APPROVED by Consent.

KT/klp/KT

X

David Foster
GSS Chair 2021-22

X

Kyla Turner
Executive Director