

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board

### (ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 25, 2021

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

### STANDING ITEMS

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35PM with FOSTER in the chair.

#### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by NG.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

*M/S: FOSTER/KENT*

*APPROVED by Consent*

#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the August 11, 2021 Executive Board Meeting are approved with minor grammatical corrections.*

*M/S: FOSTER/KENT*

*APPROVED by Consent*

[SAFARI arrived at 1:40pm. KHAN arrived at 1:42pm.]

#### E. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

##### 1. MSP CAMPAIGN PETITION

REF DOC: [MSP Petition](#)

**TASK: FOSTER** to confirm with the legislature which date should be included in the International Student MSP Fee Elimination petition.

**TASK: TURNER** to print finalized International Student MSP Fee Elimination petition and facilitate signing throughout orientation.

**TASK: FOSTER** to schedule meeting with UVSS re: International Student MSP Fee Elimination petition.

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## OLD BUSINESS

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### 1. SCHEDULING

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

- Sexualized Violence

*Tabled*

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## NEW BUSINESS

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### 1. SCHEDULING

*Motion: RESOLVED the GSS Board of Directors sets the following dates for 2021-22*

*Executive Board meetings:*

*Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 1:30pm*

*Monday, September 20, 2021, 1:30pm*

*Monday, October 11, 2021, 1:30pm*

*Monday, November 1, 2021, 1:30pm*

*Monday, November 15, 2021, 1:30pm*

*Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 1:30pm*

*Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 1:30pm*

*Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 1:30pm*

*Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 1:30pm*

*Tuesday, February 12, 2022, 1:30pm*

*Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 1:30pm*

*Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 1:30pm*

*Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 1:30pm*

*M/S: FOSTER/KHAN*

*APPROVED by Consent*

### 2. UVIC POLICIES RE: COVID-19

FOSTER reviewed the information on the BC government and UVic COVID-19 safety plans announced between August 23 and August 25, 2021. Under PHO order, masks are mandatory in indoor spaces starting August 25, 2021. Under PHO order, vaccine cards are required to access non-essential services and for on-campus housing. Vaccine cards can *not* be required to attend in-person classes. There is concern around the ban on vaccine card requirements for classes from the Province as a potential area for government overreach.

TURNER added that there is no religious or health-based vaccine exemptions for the vaccine card program. If the GSS advocate for a vaccine card program for in-person classes, we should include reasonable exemptions.

KENT asked about exemptions. FOSTER clarified the constitutionality of religious exemptions for vaccine card programs. KENT stressed that we need to look at all aspects of exemptions when forming a GSS position.

*Motion: RESOLVED that the Board of Directors supports a requirement that students at the University Of Victoria either provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or submit to regular rapid COVID-19 testing in order to attend in-person classes and events.*

*FURTHER RESOLVED students should not be required to pay for any required COVID-19 rapid testing.*

*M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI*

*Amendment: M/S: KENT/FOSTER*

Discussion:

KENT asked to include that the tests would be made available to students free of cost and if there is a cost associated, it should be borne by the University Of Victoria. A friendly amendment was made.

*APPROVED by Consent*

**TASK: FOSTER to provide an update on the GSS position regarding proof of COVID-19 vaccination to the Faculty Association, CUPE 4163, UVSS, CUPE 951, and President Hall's office.**

### 3. GSS PARTICIPATION IN UVIC ORIENTATION EVENTS

August 31, 9-10AM, Virtual Opening Ceremony – Student Life, virtual

September 1, 9:30-10AM (log on for 9), Welcome to Grad Studies – Dean of Graduate Studies and GSS, virtual

September 2, all day Discover your campus! Scavenger Hunt – International Student Services, in-person

September 3, 5-6PM – Graduate Student Social in-person event, in the Quad

September 10, 12-4PM – ThunderFest Info Fair in-person event, Vikes

**TASK: TURNER to send invites for:**

-Virtual Opening Ceremony to all elected board members

-Discover your Campus, September 2 to SAFARI

-Graduate Student Social on September 3 to KHAN and SAFARI

-ThunderFest Info Fair to KHAN, SAFARI and FOSTER

**TASK: FOSTER and SAFARI to table at ThunderFest 12-2. KHAN to table at ThunderFest from 2-4.**

### 4. GRC COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT FORM – CHECK IN

Committee descriptions and meeting times were finalized.

### 5. BOARD MEETING ENGAGEMENT

Discussion: How can we make Board meetings more fun and engaging?

FOSTER suggested the use of icebreakers for 10-15 minutes.

SAFARI recommended some casual conversations before each meeting.

TURNER asked if the level of formality and adherence to Roberts Rules is working for folks? KENT noted that we need to strike a balance between formal and informality. KENT suggested having 5-10 minute breaks for check ins or informal activities like a dance break.

**Decision: The Board will alternate between ice breakers and short activities breaks during board meetings.**

[KHAN left the meeting at 2:57pm.]



## CLOSING ITEMS

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### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: FOSTER is meeting with Jim Dunsdon September 1, 2021 to discuss the COVID-19 regulations. FOSTER requested any board members with specific questions email him those ideas. FOSTER will check in on how the vaccine card roll out for places like on-campus restaurant will be supported by UVic.

Director of Communications: KENT the Vice Provost Hiring Committee has made a short list and will be winding down next semester. The Handbook materials are completed and the document is being finalized for release soon.

Director of Finance: KHAN no report.

Director of Services: NG thanked everyone for signing up for department orientation events and reminded board members of the Pecha Kucha event on August 27, 2021.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI met with UVic housing and ISS personnel regarding the dire state of housing for incoming students, especially international students who are limited in how they can find housing before term due to COVID-19 restrictions for travel to Canada. Housing prices are astronomical and availability is very low. The University does not wish to invest further in housing. SAFARI recommended advocating to BC Transits for better bus routes out to Langford where housing is marginally more available. FOSTER noted that he can bring that concern to BC Transit Student Advisory Committee.

Executive Director: TURNER noted that GritBooks is migrating our bookkeeping services to QuickBooks Online. They will be catching us up on financial reporting and will be assisting with the audit. Halpern Centre is re-open to the public without any fanfare this week. We will move services from the Front Office to the Grad House for ventilation.

### NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

None.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

GRC Meeting: September 28, 2021

AGM: October 26, 2021

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre staffed only when needed.

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 3:10pm.*

*M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI*

*APPROVED by Consent*

KT/klp/KT

X 

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David Foster  
GSS Chair 2021-22

X 

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Kyla Turner  
Executive Director

