

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 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; Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

GUEST: Karen POTTS, Governance Coordinator (partial)

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:36PM with FOSTER in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by KHAN.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI

APPROVED by Consent

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the August 25, 2021 Executive Board Meeting are approved with minor grammatical corrections.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

APPROVED by Consent

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Note: To ensure motion log is updated, ensure completed items are reported in the minutes.

MOTIONS/TASKS noted as completed:

April 2, 2021: TASK: TURNER to arrange for EQHR, ICAT, Labour Relations, Sexualized Violence Training, and Bystander Training.

May 12, 2021: TASK: KENT to schedule Sexualized Violence Training with the Anti-Violence Project.

June 23, 2021: TASK: TURNER to reply to Trimble that GSS is unable to provide funding to university related activities.

July 7, 2021: TASK: FOSTER, SAFARI, NG to support Access4All campaign on accommodations for students with disabilities. FOSTER to correspond with Access4All.

TASK: KHAN to inform LMC that the July 15, 2021 deadline will not be met.

July 28, 2021: TASK: FOSTER to respond to UVic Faculty Association stating we support mask mandates but do not have a position on vaccination mandates at this time.

TASK: FOSTER to schedule a meet and greet meeting with Robin Hicks from 1-3:00pm, August 26, 2021.

TASK: TURNER to circulate passed in-person events motion to Events Committee, Board, and staff.

TASK: FOSTER to circulate notes from the July 21 Operational Relations meeting to the GSS board.

TASK: Board members will update their relevant GRC Committee Recruitment form by August 15, 2021.

August 11, 2021: TASK: TURNER to ask Neil BARNEY to circulate the Faculty Association petition on in-person classes via the biweekly e-bulletin with a note that the Executive Board is presenting the option to sign but does not take an official position on mandatory vaccines.

TASK: KENT to request Neil BARNEY circulate a draft of the complete handbook to the board before September 1.

TASK: TURNER to post the Operations and Services Manager job posting on the previously agreed upon job boards and mailing lists.

TASK: TURNER to send a registered letter to Acorn Accounting regarding termination with a final date for return of all GSS property of August 23, 2021.

August 25, 2021: 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.

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.

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.

Task Update:

April 28, 2021: TASK: TURNER to file for extension for the AGM with the Society's Act to allow for an October AGM.

- TURNER called the Societies Registrar to request further information about AGM extensions. Societies Registrar confirmed that no extension needs to be filed unless the AGM is hosted in 2022.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Governance report/list of existing vacancies.

Motion: RESOLVED graduate student representatives are elected to the following UVic committees:

2021-22 Sexualized Violence Education and Awareness Advisory Council

Nominations: Nell PERRY Member acclaimed: Nell PERRY

2021-22 Graduate Recruitment, Retention and Success Implementation Committee

Nominations: David FOSTER Member acclaimed: David FOSTER

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

REF DOCS: [AEST SVP Memo](#) and [Campaign Kit](#); [AEST Toxic Drugs Memo](#) and [Campaign Kit](#)

Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received etc.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

Discussion:

TURNER recommended advertising the AVP training for GRC and Board members as part of our response to the SVP campaign. Further recommended looking into naloxone training either partnered with UVSS and SWC or separately.

NG agreed to bring naloxone training to the Events Committee.

FOSTER recommended bringing the social media campaigns to the Communications Committee and approving the use of the MAEST social media toolkits to promote these two campaigns.

APPROVED by Consent

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors approves the GSS' participation in the Ministry of Advanced Education's Sexualized Violence Prevention and Toxic Drugs Awareness Campaigns on social media and/or other media platforms.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

Task: KENT to bring the Ministry of Advanced Education's Sexualized Violence Prevention and Toxic Drugs Awareness Campaigns to the Communications Committee for review.

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

1. GSSBC JULY 31, 2021

Discussion:

FOSTER reported that GSSBC members are being asked to participate in a national GSS federation. UBC GSS is looking to increase national GSS federation capacity to address the lack of focus on graduate student issues within other student federations/alliances.. Student Associations were asked to provide a voluntary contribution of \$500 to the national GSS but no funds were collected.

FOSTER shared the International Student MSP petition with UBC, SFU GSSes and both GSSes are happy to promote the petition, collaborate with the undergraduate student societies, and solicit signatures.

GSSBC member organizations were happy with the direction of COVID-19 safety measures on.

2. OPERATIONAL RELATIONS SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Discussion:

TURNER recommended sending the housing advocacy requests made by UVic directed to BC Housing, Provincial

and municipal governments to the Student Affairs Committee for consideration as a new advocacy campaign. SAFARI noted that Tricia Best, ED of International Centre for Students, felt that there was very little that could change about housing availability immediately.

Decision: the issue of housing availability and advocacy to BC Housing, the Province of BC, and the municipalities of Victoria, Saanich and Oak Bay is referred to the Student Affairs Committee.

I. ACTIVITY

Lead: Nicole KENT

Purpose: For fun

Thank you to Nahid for some excellent bellydancing!

NEW BUSINESS

1. IN-CAMERA SESSION

a) Legal Advice re: Advocacy Campaign

Motion: RESOLVED to go in camera.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

APPROVED by Consent

2. SCHEDULING

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors shall hold joint training sessions with the Graduate Representative Council facilitated by the UVic Anti-Violence Project as follows:

Understanding Consent Culture Workshop – October 11, 2021, 5pm-7pm

Supporting a Survivor Workshop – October 18, 2021, 5pm-7pm

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

TASK: KENT to finalize booking with AVP for joint Board and GRC anti-violence training

3. GSS REPRESENTATION ON VRTC STUDENT TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REF DOCS: [VRTC Student Transit Advisory Committee Request](#)

Motion: RESOLVED a member of the Board of Directors is elected to the Victoria Regional Transit Commission's Student Transit Advisory Committee for 2021-22.

Nominations: David FOSTER Member acclaimed: David FOSTER

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

APPROVED by Consent

4. ACADEMIC UNIT GRANTS

Motion: RESOLVED the eligibility criteria for academic unit grants shall be updated to allow for allocation of funds to in-person indoor and outdoor events provided that

the grant application for any in-person event includes a COVID-19 safety plan that complies with the requirements for in-person events specified in the motion passed by GRC on July 20, 2021, as well as all other current Provincial Health Officer orders.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

5. COLLECTION OF UVIC ATHLETIC FEES

REF DOCS: [Athletic Fees Correspondence](#), [UPASS Contract](#) (sections 6.2, 6.5)

Discussion:

TURNER provided a brief overview of the requirement to opt members into the Athletics and Recreation (ATRS) fee as part of the UPASS package. The GSS commits time and resources to ensuring ATRS opt-ins are administered, but does not have control to opt students out of the ATRS and receives no financial benefit from administering a UVIC fee.

TASK: TURNER to arrange meeting with FOSTER, NG, Neil BARNEY and Andrew COWARD regarding the mandatory ATRS fee being administered by the GSS

6. WORK STUDY UPDATE

Motion: RESOLVED to table the discussion of Work Study projects to the September 20, 2021 Executive Board meeting.

M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI

APPROVED by Consent.

Tabled

7. GRC NEW TERM PLANNING AND TRAINING

Guest: Karen POTTS, Governance Coordinator [arrived 3:00 pm]

Discussion:

POTTS provided an update on the 47 academic units that are eligible for a GRC seat. As of today, 11 academic units have declared their reps or co-reps. This number is typical for this time of year. Neil BARNEY is sending out another email reminder to run for GRC. POTTS recommends board members reach out to the departments they provided orientations for to invite them to elect a GRC rep.

TASK: All Executive Board Members to contact the departments they provided orientation events for to invite the department or academic unit graduate student association's to elect a GRC rep/co-rep.

TASK: All elected Executive Board Members to review their committee Connect sites to ensure that it is welcoming and well-organized for new committee members.

POTTS provided a brief history of how GRC orientation has occurred in previous years and sought Executive Board feedback on how to make the training successful this year.

Agenda items for GRC first meeting:

1. GRC Committee Selections
2. UVic Committee appointments
3. Intro to the 2021-22 Annual Plan from the Board

Training sessions:

September 27, 2021, 5-6pm - GRC Rep Orientation Training! Governance at GSS 101 and Returning Reps Intro to GRC (possibly POTTS or TURNER to facilitate)

October 11 and 18, 2021, 5-7pm- AVP Training (AVP to facilitate)

October 25, 2021, 5-6pm (provisionally) - Training on Roberts Rules (possibly FOSTER to facilitate)

TBD - ICAT and EQHR training (ICAT and EQHR to facilitate)

TASK: TURNER, FOSTER, and POTTS to meet on Friday morning September 17, 2021 to finalize GRC training plans.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Executive Director: TURNER: Thank you and congratulations to all board members for facilitating orientation events. The GSS met with 31 departments and participated in 9 UVic orientation events. Uptake on the International Student MSP fee petition is strong with 140 signatures collected at orientation events by GSS so far.

Start of term update:

When creating the 2021-22 budget, we estimated flat enrolment at ~2900 students enrolled for September. As of today, 3034 students have enrolled this term. There will be fluctuation in enrolment numbers until the course add/drop deadline, but we should exceed our member fee revenue projections by 1-2% for this term. I will provide an update on actual revenue generated by member fees mid-October when we receive funds from UVic.

For our UPASS and Health and Dental services, we have returned to a more normal pre-pandemic level of opt-ins and outs. Staff have processed 86 UPASS opt-ins, 53 UPASS opt-outs, and approximately 250 H&D opt-outs and 60 H&D opt-ins to date. There are an additional 350 H&D opt-outs awaiting processing by office staff.

Members have been reaching out to GSS staff with service questions. The most common question this term has been when the restaurant will re-open. We will need to collect further data, but it appears there is strong member support for a re-opening in future.

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: September 20, 2021

GRC Meetings: September 28, 2021

AGM: October 26, 2021

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre is open to the public normal office hours: 10-4 Monday-Thursday and 11-2 Fridays.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 3:30pm.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

KT/kt

X 

David Foster
GSS Chair 2021-22

X 

Kyla Turner
Executive Director

