

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

**Executive Board**  
(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 20, 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); Persephone TURNER (mascot, non-voting)

**STANDING ITEMS**

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:33PM with FOSTER in the chair.

**B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Land acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

**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 September 15, 2021 Executive Board Meeting are approved with minor corrections.*

*M/S: FOSTER/NG*

*APPROVED by Consent*

**E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Follow-up TASKS assigned:

TURNER to contact ICAT and EQHR to book GRC training.

TURNER to contact FOSTER and Karen POTTS regarding GRC training planning.

**F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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

*2021-22 Faculty of Graduate Studies Council – 1 Executive Board member*

*Incumbent: Nicole KENT*

*Nominations: Nicole KENT      Member acclaimed: Nicole KENT*

*2021-22 Faculty of Social Sciences: Acting Associate Dean – Research & Graduate Studies Search Committee – 1 member*

Nominations: Rae DIAS Member acclaimed: Rae DIAS  
M/S: FOSTER/KHAN  
APPROVED by Consent

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

### 1. UVIC EXEC TO EXEC SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Discussion:

TURNER felt the meeting was productive and has sent follow up e-mails.

FOSTER wanted the next Exec-to-Exec in December to focus on reducing barriers to graduate student participation in UVic committees.

SAFARI brought up going to the Faculty Association to advocate for a capacity expansion at the Student Wellness Centre to cover faculty, staff, and students' dependants.

## H. LOBBYING REPORTS

September 16, 2021 Exec-to-EXEC MEETING HAS BEEN REPORTED to the BC Lobbyists Registrar.

## I. ACTIVITY

SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?! Round 2

Purpose: For fun

Thank you to KENT for bringing the music and rhythm on her cheese grater and to FOSTER for being the last one standing for dancing. FOSTER to lead an ice breaker at the next meeting.

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## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. WORK STUDY UPDATE

Discussion:

TURNER provided an overview of five possible projects a Work Study student could take on to advance our annual plan or resolve internal administrative issues:

- Reducing Barriers to Graduate Student Participation in Time-Intensive UVic Committee Work
- Grant Funded Research Assistants Employment Status (RA Legal Status)
- Online Electoral Policy Development
- Membership Definition Policy Development
- UVic-GSS Privacy Agreement Re-drafting

FOSTER favoured the UVic committee, GSS membership definition, and UVic privacy policy development projects.

TURNER commented that we can hire project by project and start hiring for the UVic committee project.

**TASK: TURNER to promote posting on the GRC list serv.**

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## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. RESCHEDULING

*Motion: RESOLVED that the Executive Board meeting scheduled for October 11, 2021 at 1:30pm is rescheduled to October 12, 2021 at 1:30pm; and*

*FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual General Meeting scheduled for October 26, 2021 is cancelled; and*  
*FURTHER RESOLVED that the Annual General Meeting will be rescheduled at the October 12, 2021 Executive Board meeting; and*  
*FURTHER RESOLVED that a Graduate Representative Council Meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2021; and*  
*FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Board meeting scheduled for November 15, 2021 is cancelled.*  
*M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI*  
*Discussion:*  
*APPROVED by Consent*

## 2. GRC AGENDA

*Motion: RESOLVED the GRC Agenda for September 28, 2021 is approved as presented.*  
*M/S: FOSTER/KENT*  
*Discussion:*  
*APPROVED by Consent*

## 3. GRC LOGISTICS

For discussion:

Breakout room planning

Committee report preparation

Task sign up:

Chat monitor – seconding: KHAN

Chat monitor – questions and comment: NG

## 4. IN-CAMERA SESSION

- a) Legal Advice re: Research Assistants

REF DOCS: [Jeanie Lanine Follow-up Advice re: Research Assistants](#); [Jeanie Lanine Invoice](#)

*Motion: RESOLVED to move in camera at 2:29pm.*  
*M/S: FOSTER/KHAN*  
*APPROVED by Consent.*

## CLOSING ITEMS

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### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: FOSTER attended an Access4All meeting, during which the International Student MSP fee issue came up, as well as other concerns for international student access to learning while there is a push to return to in-person learning. FOSTER circulated a media publication about the Access4All campaign. The joint statement between the Faculty Association and Access4All should be out soon. The Graduate Executive Committee reported a 40% increase in applications. This increase is believed

to be the result of the economic situation and COVID-19. Mature students may now apply using their work experience attained before their undergraduate degrees.

Director of Communications: KENT the VP Hiring Committee has moved to shortlisting and should be interviewing in October.

Director of Finance: KHAN everything is chugging along with the bookkeeper. The MHC needs to approve a written assignment ASAP.

Director of Services: NG looking forward to hosting more events in the Fall.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI no report.

Executive Director: K. TURNER reported 91 UPASS opt-ins, 68 UPASS opt-outs, 530 health and dental opt outs have been processed. For the UPASS, this seems to indicate that membership is still largely happy with our services. The high rate of health and dental opt outs may relate to the referendum change in June 2020 that had all full time graduate students automatically assessed for this service. The majority of people who are opting out are doing so because they have comparable coverage. The number of members opting out due to residency outside Canada is down significantly.

Mascot: P. TURNER *purrmitted* Exec members to gaze upon her. P. TURNER supports all work done by the board in her absence.

## 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\*\***

Next Executive Meetings: October 12, 2021

GRC Meetings: September 28, 2021

AGM: TBD

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: The GSS will be closed Thursday, September 30, 2021 for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.*

*M/S:*

*APPROVED by Consent.*

KT/klp



X 

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David Foster  
GSS Chair 2021-22

X 

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Kyla Turner  
Executive Director

