

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

JANUARY 18, 2022

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

STANDING ITEMS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:32PM with FOSTER in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by NG.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved with an addition of the Alliance of BC Students letter regarding student safety to Correspondence Received and discussion of the LTSL Executive Director Search Committee meet and greets to the Meeting Debrief section.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

[SAFARI arrived at 1:36pm]

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the December 7, 2021 and January 4, 2022 Executive Board Meetings are approved with minor corrections as provided.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

APPROVED by Consent

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: RESOLVED the following committee appointments are referred to GRC:

- 2021-22 Faculty of Social Sciences Awards and Recognition Committee – 1 member in Social Sciences
- 2021-22 Faculty of Social Sciences Dean's Advisory Forum on Indigenization – 1 member in Social Sciences

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

[KENT arrived at 1:40pm]

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. Alliance of BC Students Request for Support; [ABCS BC Budget 2022 Submission](#); [Letter of Support for Budget Submission](#)
2. AC1205 Policy Review
3. National Graduate Student Finance Survey
4. Alliance of BC Students/UBC AMS Student Safety Letter to the Ministry of Health

Motion: RESOLVED to endorse the Alliance of BC Student's 2022 Budget Submission regarding the 2022 BC budget to the BC Legislature Select Standing Committee on Finance.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

APPROVED by Consent with KHAN's abstention noted

TASK: FOSTER to correspond with the Alliance of BC Students regarding GSS's endorsement of their budget submission.

TASK: FOSTER, NG, KHAN and KENT to attend the AC1205 Policy Review Consultation on January 27, 2021, 10-11am on Zoom.

TASK: TURNER to provide Neil BARNEY and Melissa WOTKYNS information regarding promotion of the National Graduate Student Finance Survey. KENT to correspond regarding the National Graduate Student Finance Survey.

Motion: RESOLVED to endorse the Alliance of BC Student's Letter regarding Student Safety during COVID-19 to the Ministry of Health.

M/S: FOSTER/KHAN

APPROVED by Consent with KHAN's abstention noted

TASK: FOSTER to correspond with the Alliance of BC Students regarding GSS's endorsement of their letter on student safety.

Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED by Consent

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF (GRC, OPERATIONAL RELATIONS, ETC.) 1:50

1. GRC MEETING DEBRIEF, DECEMBER 14, 2021

No report.

2. LTSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE MEET AND GREETINGS

TURNER recommends assigning Board members to attend future hiring committee meet and greets to ensure strong attendance.

I. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

FOSTER reported he sent an email to other student societies regarding signature collection, but has not heard back with further petition signatures.

TASK: FOSTER to meet with UVSS to plan bringing the International Student MSP fee petition to the legislature.

FOSTER corresponded with the University regarding the use of webvote for GRC elections. This does not appear to be a viable way to conduct GRC elections at this time.

TASK: FOSTER to meet with TURNER regarding next steps for GRC election annual plan items.

NEW BUSINESS

1. IN-CAMERA SESSION

a) Health and Dental Plan contract

Motion: RESOLVED to move in-camera at 1:59pm.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED by Consent

TASK: TURNER and FOSTER to set a meeting with Aon to discuss future renewal timelines at an Executive Board meeting.

2. RESCHEDULING

Motion: RESOLVED the Executive Board meeting scheduled for March 1, 2022 at 1:30pm is rescheduled to Monday, February 28 at 1:30pm.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

3. COVID-19 AND CHANGES IN COURSE DELIVERY

REF DOC: [UVic President's Message on Return to In Person Classes on January 24, 2022](#)

Discussion:

FOSTER expressed safety concerns and a concern that we may need to return to online, which can be very disruptive for our members.

SAFARI noted that there is a decrease in the quality of education provided to our members as both students and instructors when learning occurs remotely. Therefore, we need to consider both quality of education and member safety with this decision.

KHAN felt the endorsement of the ABCS letter on student safety was a sufficient response to this issue and likely our most effective means of response. TURNER agreed.

4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS, AGENDA AND TRAINING POLICIES

REF DOCS: [Executive Board Meeting Policy REVISED](#); [Executive Board Annual Plan Policy NEW](#); [Executive Board Training Policy NEW](#); Policy 8 – (Executive Board) Meeting Process, Agenda Preparation and Training, [Interim Governance Manual](#), page 12

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors dissolves into Committee of the Whole.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors rises and reports from Committee of the Whole.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

Motion: RESOLVED the Executive Board Meeting Policy is approved as recommended by Committee of the Whole, and

FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Board Annual Plan Policy is approved as recommended by Committee of the Whole, and

FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Board Training Policy is approved as recommended by Committee of the Whole, and

FURTHER RESOLVED Policy 8 – (Executive Board) Meeting Process, Agenda Preparation and Training is rescinded.

M/S: FOSTER/NG

APPROVED by Consent

5. COMPENSATION FOR STUDENTS ON TIME-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

REF DOCS: [Senate Memo – Compensation for Students on Time-Intensive University Committees](#)

Motion: RESOLVED the Board of Directors endorses the proposed motion to be submitted to the February 4, 2022 Uvic Senate meeting.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED by Consent

TASK: TURNER to arrange a meeting between herself, FOSTER, Neil BARNEY and Alycia GARCIA to discuss the work conducted by the GSS Work Study Student (GARCIA) on the Compensation for Students on Time-Intensive University Committees campaign and move an appropriate number of GARCIA's work hours to the a Senate Working Group. TURNER to add in KENT's hiring committee hours to FOSTER's Senate proposal regarding the same by end of day January 18.

6. JANUARY 25, 2022 GRC AGENDA

REF DOC: [January 25, 2022 GRC Agenda DRAFT](#)

Motion: RESOLVED the January 25, 2022 GRC Agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: FOSTER/KENT

APPROVED by Consent

[KENT left the meeting at 2:52pm and returned at 2:57pm due to a dropped connection]

7. GRC LOGISTICS

For discussion

Decision: To eliminate Breakout Rooms in favour of Round Table as we have not used Breakout Rooms since September.

Chat Monitor – Mover/Secunder: SAFARI

Chat Monitor – Questions and Comments: NG

8. ICE BREAKER

Completed.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: FOSTER reported that Graduate Executive Committee has proposed program changes already approved by FGS Council. The Graduate Retention, Recruitment, and Success Committee is looking into changing policies around the course load that grad students who have significant caregiver duties are charged for to something more in line with the existing policies around accommodation of students with disabilities. GRRSC is also considering accommodations for students experiencing short-term illnesses and students with full-time employment. FOSTER also reports that BPC has been very active.

Director of Communications: KENT reported that Communications Committee is trying to roll out communication plans for UVic and planning for the board transition.

Director of Finance: KHAN no report.

Director of Services: NG no report.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI reported that she needs to connect with KENT, TURNER, and Neil BARNEY for amplifying SWC messaging on mental health supports and research on student mental health. Additionally, SAFARI is working with the University to address issues about the financial barriers to bringing in international students to UVic and looking for support in communicating those messages.

Executive Director: TURNER reported that Melissa and Daniel continue their training and are doing well with onboarding. Our website is now up-to-date regarding the items for posting specifically included in her quarterly work plan. All January orientation events have been completed. The Food and Beverage Town Hall from January 11 was rescheduled for Feb 2 due to zero member attendance. We've received over 90 F&B survey responses to date.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

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: February 1, 2022

GRC Meetings: January 25, 2022

SAGM: March 22, 2022

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre remains closed to the public for the week of January 18-21 due to COVID-19. Staff will be planning for a return to full in-person service provision at the staff meeting on Jan 21.

ADJOURNMENT

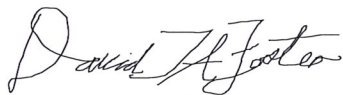
Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 3:18pm.

M/S: FOSTER/SAFARI

APPROVED by Consent

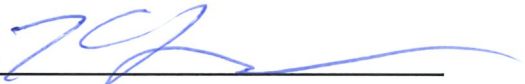
KT/kt/klp

X



David Foster
GSS Chair 2021-22

X



Kyla Turner
Executive Director