

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Graduate Representative Council

MEETING MINUTES (ONLINE VIA ZOOM)

JUNE 21, 2022, 5-7 PM

Elected Academic Unit Reps (1 vote per academic unit) Present:

Anthropology: Zonke Guddah	Farnoud (part)	History: Dax Tate
Biochemistry & Microbiology: Michael Allison; Ladan Kalani	English: Julie Funk	Linguistics: Matthew Somerville
Chemistry: Greg Gaube	Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton	Physics & Astronomy: Mallory Thorpe (part) (proxy for Jess Speedie)
Curriculum & Instruction: Tahmineh	Geography: Ishana Shukla	
	Health Information Science: Dee Wong	

GSS Executive Board (1 vote per elected Board member) Present:

Chair: Summer OKIBE	Director of Student Affairs: Nahid SAFARI
Director of Communications: Nicole KENT	Operations and Services Manager standing in for Executive Director: Neil BARNEY (non-voting)
Director of Finance: Bobby BICKLEY	
Director of Services: Wyatt MADDOX	

Recorder: GSS Governance Coordinator: Karen L. Potts

Regrets:

Biology: Sarah Lane
Music: Kayleigh Francis
Neuroscience: Hannah Reid
Public Administration: Christopher Jones
Public Health and Social Policy: Zackary Derrick
Sociology: Tyler Branston (standing proxy: Cole Freeman)

Absent Without Regrets:

Art History & Visual Studies: Shruti Parthasarathy
Civil Engineering: Ariya Eini, David Serrano
Earth & Ocean Sciences: Moronke Harris, Chrissy Schellenberg
Economics: Matheson Gillis
Educational Psychology & Leadership Studies: Rohit Jain
Electrical & Computer Engineering: Amir Sepahi, Anushka Halder
Exercise Science, Physical & Health Education: Emily Magel
French: Alphonse Bode Abiodun
Greek & Roman Studies: Alix Galumbeck
Law: Carol Marinho-Ribeiro, Paige Thombs
Pacific & Asian Studies: Maeve Milligan
Visual Arts: Colton Hash

CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

OKIBE called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

KENT provided a personal land acknowledgement.

STANDING ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: RESOLVED that the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S TATE/FUNK

Agenda was approved by consent.

B. TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER (NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER)

KALANI volunteered.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: RESOLVED that the Minutes of the April 19, 2022 GRC meeting are approved as presented.

M/S KALANI/TATE

Approved by consent.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/PAST MEETINGS

None.

E. REPORTS

A. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

GSS Membership: As of May 25, 2022 there were 2657 GSS Members.

GRC Membership: GRC now consists of 29 academic units (out of 46 academic units eligible), and 5 Executive Board members.

Meeting Quorum: With 5 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 15. At this point in the meeting, there were 14 voting members present.

B. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The 2022-23 Executive Board re-introduced themselves to Council and spoke to some of the exciting work upcoming for 2022-23.

C. EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO ACCEPT

[Note: Meeting became quorate with 15 voting members at 5:30 pm.]

MOTION: RESOLVED that the Executive Board reports for January are approved, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

M/S SOMERVILLE / FUNK

APPROVED by CONSENT.

MOTION: FURTHER RESOLVED that that the overview portion of the Director of Finance June 2021 – June 2022 monthly reports are redacted by the Stipend Review Committee.
M/S KALANI/FUNK
APPROVED by CONSENT.

D. ACADEMIC UNIT & COUNCILLOR REPORTS – ROUND TABLE

Members had a chance to informally discuss issues facing students in their department or other issues pertaining to graduate students at UVic. Some of the issues raised included:

- stress from the multi-factor log in processes
- the high cost of living, particularly housing prices
- the need to increase graduate student stipends
- the scarcity of awards and grants, and particular inequity for Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education graduate students

E. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: in the interest of time, these were not presented to preserve quorum.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

MOTION: RESOLVED that the following members are excused from their respective committees, with thanks for their service:

Appeals: Mona Sawan

Bylaw and Policy: Tom Ferguson

Events: Wyatt Maddox

Finance: Gerard Avellaneda Domeme

Student Affairs: Echo Huang, Wyatt Maddox

FURTHER RESOLVED that the following GRC Standing Committee members are ratified:

Appeals: Zachary DERRICK

Communications: Matthew SOMERVILLE

Finance: Maeve MILLIGAN

Student Affairs: Ishana SHUKLA

M/S FUNK/SOMERVILLE

Approved by CONSENT

F. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND VACANCIES

REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES: No reports.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

MOTION: RESOLVED that accept the resignations of Erin Donald from the Senate Committee on Academic Standards as of May 31, 2022, and Adair Ng from the Senate Committee on Libraries, as of April 30, 2022; with thanks for their service to the GSS and our members.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the following graduate student representatives are elected to the following UVic committee: Social Sciences Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Working Group as co-representatives: Lauren BURTON and Zonke GUDDAH.

M/S SOMERVILLE/ALISON
APPROVED by CONSENT.

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR GSS EVENTS AND HALPERN CENTRE

REF DOC: [BC COVID-19 Restrictions](#)

*Motion: RESOLVED that to rescind the [July 20, 2021 COVID-19 safety motion](#)
FURTHER RESOLVED that that the future occupational health and safety planning will
be an operational issue resolved by management.
M/S: SOMERVILLE/ALISON*

MADDOX spoke in favour of the motion. MADDOX expressed concern over the outdated nature of the previous motion, the need to be able to respond rapidly to the changing situation of COVID, and the problem of relying on the GRC for operational issues.

APPROVED by CONSENT.

2. POLICY APPROVALS

REF DOCS:

[Conduct Policy BPC RECOMMENDED](#)

[In-Camera Policy BPC RECOMMENDED](#)

[GRC Committee Terms of Reference Revisions BPC RECOMMENDED](#)

[Interim Governance Manual](#), pages 3 and 29

Lead: Summer OKIBE, Chair Bylaw and Policy Committee

*MOTION: RESOLVED that the Conduct Policy and In-Camera Policy are adopted, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee, and
FURTHER RESOLVED that Policy 3 – Interim Code of Conduct Policy is rescinded, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
FURTHER RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference of the Appeals Committee, Bylaw and Policy Committee, Events Committee, Finance Committee and Student Affairs Committee are amended, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
FURTHER RESOLVED that the definition of “Annual Plan” in the Definitions section of the Interim Governance Manual is amended, as recommended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.
M/S WONG/SOMERVILLE
APPROVED by CONSENT.*

3. ELECTORAL OFFICER PAYMENT

Lead: Summer OKIBE, Chair

*MOTION: RESOLVED that to pay Christopher Jones \$200 for his services as Electoral Officer for the March 2022 referendum and March 2022 Executive Board election.
M/S SOMERVILLE/KALANI
APPROVED by CONSENT.*

CLOSING ITEMS

Next GRC meeting: July 26, 2022 and September 27, 2022

July 26, 2022 Land acknowledgement: Bobby BICKLEY

July 26, 2022 Timekeeper: Dax TATE (if History has not elected a replacement)

AGM: October 25, 2022

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION

Opportunity for any GRC member participating in a group or issue to request support or participation from other graduate students.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING

None.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: RESOLVED that the meeting is adjourned.

M/S SOMERVILLE/TATE

Approved by CONSENT

The GRC meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

klp/

X

Summer OKEBI

GSS Chair 2202-03

X

Neil BARNEY, Operations and Services Manager

Standing in for Kyla TURNER, GSS Executive Direc...