

*University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society*

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

AUGUST 30, 2022

**EXECUTIVE PRESENT:** Nicole KENT, Director of Communications (partial); Nahid Pourdolat SAFARI, Director of Student Affairs; Wyatt MADDOX, Director of Services; Robert BICKLEY, Director of Finance; Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

**REGRETS:** Summer OKIBE, Chair;

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**STANDING ITEMS PART 1**

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Land acknowledgement offered by BICKLEY. BICKLEY invited all board members to take a moment to reflect on their relationship to the lands that they are on.

**C. ICE BREAKER**

What type of weather best describes your mood today? (e.g. "Today I am a clear, sunny day." Or "Today I am a coming thunderstorm just before the first drop of rain fall."). Board members were stormy for some and calm autumnal days for others.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

*M/S: SAFARI/BICKLEY*

*CARRIED*

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**NEW BUSINESS**

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**1. SEPTEMBER PREP**

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Orientation Sign Up Sheet, GRC Committee Sign Up Sheet

Discussion:

Final check: Have all board members signed up for 5+ orientation events? (Thanks to the folks who already have!) Have all board members selected a meeting date and time for their committees and submitted any edits to TURNER and POTTS?

**TASK: MADDOX, BICKLEY, and SAFARI to review orientation calendar to see if they are able to attend any further department orientations.**

## 2. ANNUAL PLAN

Reference: Annual Plan Draft

For Discussion:

Are we prepared to ratify the annual plan?

Which board member would like to take the lead on presenting the plan to GRC in September?

**Decision: Discussion on Annual Plan finalization tabled to Sept 13.**

## 3. WORK STUDY PROJECTS

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Work Study Project Work Plans

For Discussion:

We received 100 hours of Work Study funding for the year. TURNER prepared work plans for projects on housing and RA employment. Does the board wish to see further options for projects? Which project is highest priority for us?

MADDOX in support of prioritizing the municipal relations housing advocacy project. SAFARI and BICKLEY were in support of either housing project.

**DECISION: TURNER to focus on housing projects for hiring a 2022-23 Work Study student.**

## 4. UVIC DEBT CAPACITY FOR HOUSING LETTER

Reference: Letter draft by TURNER

For Discussion:

What is missing from this letter in terms of compelling arguments as to why we should get what we are asking for? What is extraneous and doesn't help our argument? Are all the right people cc'd?

Suggested tasks: Does the board wish to send this letter to a GRC committee for editing? Edit themselves? Scrap it and start fresh?

**DECISION: Draft letter regarding UVIC debt capacity and graduate dorm buildings to be sent to SAC for editing and approval.**

## 5. BCGS AND BCAG LETTER

Reference: Letter draft by TURNER

For Discussion:

What is missing from this letter in terms of compelling arguments as to why we should get what we are asking for? What is extraneous and doesn't help our argument? Are all the right people cc'd?

Suggested tasks: Does the board wish to send this letter to a GRC committee for editing? Edit themselves? Scrap it and start fresh?

**DECISION: Draft letter regarding BC Graduate Scholarship and BC Access Grant buildings to be sent to Finance Committee for editing and approval.**

## 6. MINISTER KANG VISIT THURSDAY

For Discussion: What key speaking points can we get across in 15 minutes of meeting time?

Board members suggested the following questions

1. The lived reality of a lot of graduate students now includes many insecurely housed or unhoused individuals and families living significantly below the poverty line. What will MAEST do to ensure the financial stability of our graduate population as trainees in high demand jobs that support our economic growth?
2. Will MAEST support extending eligibility to the BC Access Grant to graduate students?
3. What steps with MAEST take in assisting international students in navigating the IRCC process to ensure a timely start to their studies and a smooth transition to PGWP?
4. Many graduate students are parents. Will MAEST advocate to the MCFD in creating \$10 A Day Childcare seats for on-campus childcare centres across BC accessible primarily to students?

**TASK: TURNER to circulate questions for the MAEST Minister for the September 1, 2022 to board members.**

## 7. HOUSING MEDIA RELEASE

[KENT arrived at 2:16pm]

For Discussion: Does the Board wish to prepare a media release on housing to circulate to local media for Fall? If so, who wishes to lead drafting the release?

Discussion:

Main points to include in media release:

The government needs to put in place protections for renters through increased staffing in the residential tenancy offices to address problem landlords. Rising price of housing (36% increase for Victoria proper) is pricing out students. UBC AMS has called for a full rent freeze in 2023. We should also include stories from student directly impacted by the housing crisis. We should include statistics on rent increases by municipality, housing need levels, graduate student finances and employment status (anecdotal sources), especially in comparison to the poverty line and the rising cost of housing. We can contextualize this as an inclusivity issue as all graduate students are losing purchasing power due to the rising cost of living, which limits who can afford to go to grad school, particularly international students, student parents/caregivers, BIPOC students, LGBTQ+ students. The measures the Gov. of Canada brought in on increasing interest rates does not positively impact renters. Other costs of living issues, especially childcare, also price out student renters (link to \$10 A Day Childcare Campaign and show support for that campaign).

How do we solicit student stories? How could this impact relationships with supervisors, landlords, etc.? Could go through word of mouth through the board or through GRC.

**TASK: BICKLEY to draft media release regarding housing crisis for approval by the Board by email before September 9.**

## 8. PIANO!

Lead: MADDOX

For Discussion: Does the Board agree that we can accept MADDOX's piano (with associated moving and tuning costs)

*Motion: RESOLVED to budget up to \$1000 for the moving, tuning and other associated expenses for a donated piano for the Halpern Centre.*

*M/S: BICKLEY/KENT*

*CARRIED*

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## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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### E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APPENDIX A)

*Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the August 16, 2022 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.*

*M/S: BICKLEY/SAFARI*

*CARRIED*

### F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

#### **TASKS COMPLETED:**

**June 21, 2022:** TASK: OKIBE can be put on future agenda. SAFARI can raise at Operational Relations. (parking)

**August 16, 2022:** TURNER, SAFARI, BICKLEY, MADDOX, OKIBE to attend joint meeting with CUPE 4163 on August 23 at 12:00 noon on Zoom regarding a member card drive for Research Assistants in Fall 2022.

SAFARI, TURNER, OKIBE, MADDOX, BICKLEY, KENT to attend joint UVSS/GSS Board Meet and Greet August 18, 2022 at 12:00 on Zoom.

TURNER to circulate Outlook and Connect calendar invites for forthcoming Executive Board meetings.

TURNER to promote parking fee increase Change.org petition on GSS social media and bulletin.

TURNER to send list of agenda items to Operational Relations meeting coordinator

### G. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

*Motion: RESOLVED to elect the following members to the below committees:*

*UVSS University Representative Committee*

*Member name: Wyatt MADDOX*

*M/S: BICKLEY/SAFARI*

*CARRIED*

### H. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No correspondence received.

### I. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

1. Agenda planning: GRC September 27 – to be finalized Sept 13

Items to include: Welcome, Training, and Annual Plan overview

Welcome to be offered by OKIBE (10 minutes with standing items and icebreakers)

Training 30-45 minutes. Ideas:

- Volunteer position – the attractive parts include: meal with meetings for in-person folks, events, etc.
- Time commitment expectations (2 hours in GRC, 1 hour committee meeting, 1 hour meeting prep, 2 hours committee work or about 1 working day per month)
- Co-reps can work jointly to handle heavy workload
- Connect 101
- Roberts Rules Redux (10 min or less)
- History of the GSS is 5-10 minutes

Annual Plan Overview 30 minutes

Discussion:

Need to have technical rehearsals for fully hybrid meetings with meals to come back.

Must have final copy of the annual plan for posting by September 20.

## 2. Meeting debrief: UVSS joint meeting Aug 18

- Looking at joint events and coordinated advertising on events, especially family oriented events
- Clubs: are there ways to advertise to GSS members more effectively? Can the GSS be able to be a part of clubs days for tabling Sept 14/15, 10-4:30? They provide tent, table and chairs.
- Izzy Adachii (Campaigns and Community Relations) to contact GSS about media relations opportunities around housing and municipal meetings on housing in the region. Suggested task: SAFARI and ADACHII to correspond regarding opportunities to engage the community on housing? Implement a standing meeting with UVSS to review engagement opportunities for advocacy
- Invite to join UVic Representative Committee for planning Senate and BOG advocacy strategies – elect a rep?
- Food bank: seeking additional funding this year. UVSS to email Bobby with amount of funding requested. Should we move to allocate a donation to the Food Bank (ideally this happens at the end of the fiscal year with any budgetary surpluses and not mid year). Should we go to referendum to increase this fee to \$2.25 for on-campus and implement a \$1.25 for co-op/distance (current UVSS amounts) to \$5 per student? Does the meal share program reduce Food Bank need? Family centre will also be re-opening this year with food sharing options.

**TASKS: MADDOX to table for Clubs Days September 14 and Sept 15 morning and communicate with UVSS about booking the GSS a table at Clubs Days.**

[BICKLEY had an unstable connection from 3:01 to meeting end.]

## J. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

## K. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

## CLOSING ITEMS

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### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Director of Communications: KENT the AGES Coordinator has been in touch with KENT for a department orientation event. KENT has looped in the Communications Coordinator, Melissa.

Director of Finance: BICKLEY no report.

Director of Services: MADDOX Speed Friending with Global Communities went well. Orientation is quite busy. Later events have not yet been scheduled but will be after Events Committee is up and running. Every other Wednesday Coffee will have events with campus partners, like Student Life or Alumni Relations networking mixers, etc. These will be academically focused social time for members.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI met with GSSBC to set priorities for the year, which will be housing and \$10 A Day Childcare. GSSBC will also be focused on MSP fees, however we have already completed our first campaign there. GSSBC will work on social media and website design and development. The social night for RAs should be well received if hosted at the GSS.

Executive Director: TURNER provided an update on hiring for the restaurant as well as re-opening planning and service provision planning for September. All are going well. The launch party for the Grad House will be joint with the Welcome Back BBQ on the 22<sup>nd</sup> as we are looking for a quiet launch for the first few weeks to work out any kinks with the new service model.

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

Annual Plan finalization  
GRC Agenda finalization  
Executive Board meeting structure re: reducing guest chairing tasks  
Board mid-term review

#### 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 13, 2022 – chaired by: no volunteer. Land acknowledgement by: SAFARI.

Next GRC Meeting: Sept 27, 2022

AGM: October 25, 2022

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes:

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.*

*M/S:*

*CARRIED*

kt/klp

X



Summer Okibe  
GSS Chair 2022-23

X



Kyla Turner  
Executive Director