

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

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

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

**EXECUTIVE PRESENT:** Summer OKIBE, Chair; Nahid Pourdolat SAFARI, Director of Student Affairs; Wyatt MADDOX, Director of Services and Interim-Director of Communications; Robert BICKLEY, Director of Finance; Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

**GUESTS:** Dale Robertson, General Manager UVSS; Amanda Macpherson, Administration and Services Manager UVSS; Lane O'Hara Cooke, Director of Finance and Operations UVSS; Izzy Adachi, Campaigns and Community Relations UVSS; Amber Powell, Events UVSS; Ton Tran UVSS

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**STANDING ITEMS PART 1**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 with OKIBE in the chair.

**B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

*M/S: MADDOX/SAFARI*

*CARRIED*

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. CAMPUS FOOD BANK FUNDING**

Leads: UVSS team

Discussion:

COOKE shared a brief presentation on the current state of affairs with funding of the Campus Food Bank and Free Store. These services are experiencing a significant \$200,000 budget shortfall due to the increases to cost of living and inflation leading to a sharp spike in demand for food security services since 2020. The budget shortfall is predicted to increase next year. The UVSS is putting forward money from their Operating budget to address the immediate shortfall and looking at a referendum to increase student fees to support the Food Bank long term. They feel that the University should be supplying funds to cover the shortfall for the wellbeing of students. UVSS has lobbied directly to UVic to support the Food Bank, however the University is currently experiencing a \$17million budget shortfall. They have asked the GSS to support the UVSS in lobbying to UVic.

The GSS currently provides 2% of funding to the Food Bank and utilizing 38% of services. The GSS currently has the lowest fees for the Food Bank among UVic students. COOKE noted that UVSS estimates needing to increase to \$4.50/student/term and are working towards a referendum in Spring, but have some hesitations

around whether the referendum will pass.

TURNER suggested working jointly on referenda and focusing messaging on the increased purchasing power of the Food Bank over the individual student, therefore a food insecure student using the Food Bank would see significantly more return for \$5 (for example) to the Food Bank than those \$5 spent individually. BICKLEY suggested focusing on maintaining current services.

**TASKS: TURNER to invite COOKE to the November GRC meeting to present on the Food Bank funding shortfall. TURNER to coordinate an additional meeting between UVSS and GSS to discuss advocacy to increase funding to the Food Bank.**

[UVSS representatives left meeting]

## 2. GRC AGENDA APPROVAL

Lead: OKIBE

Reference: GRC Nov 29, 2022 Agenda Draft

For Discussion:

**TASKS: TURNER and BICKLEY to coordinate an introduction to the Food Bank funding agenda item. TURNER to make powerpoint slideshow for November GRC meeting. MADDOX and SAFARI to take registration at November GRC.**

## 3. CALL FOR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Lead: Turner

*Motion: RESOLVED to hold a Special General Meeting on December 6, 2022 to address the funding gap the campus Food Bank is currently experiencing.*

*M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY*

*CARRIED*

**TASK: BICKLEY and TURNER to meet to discuss funding allocations for the Food Bank for the Special General Meeting December 6, 2022.**

## 4. REFERENDUM PLANNING

Lead: Turner

For Discussion:

Item 1: Can we send the following referendum question proposal to Appeals and Finance Committees to review and revise?

"Prior to 2020, the GSS extended health and dental insurance was only applied to tuition accounts of full-time, on-campus grad students. All other grad students could opt in to coverage. In Summer 2020, the GSS moved to assess all full-time graduate students for extended health and dental insurance regardless of their on-/off-campus status. While this kept the most people insured over the pandemic as UVic moved to online learning, it is now increasing administrative work for distance students who frequently opt out of insurance coverage.

Do you support changing the assessment criteria for extended health and dental insurance on tuition accounts to include only full-time, on-campus students?"

**TASK: MADDOX and BICKLEY to bring the above noted draft referendum question on extended health and dental assessment criteria to the Appeals and Finance Committees respectively.**

Item 2: Can we send the following referendum question proposal to the Student Affairs and Finance Committees to review and revise?

"The campus Food Bank provides food security to many UVic graduate students. Currently, grad students provide about 2% of Food Bank Funding and use 38% of services. The current Food Bank fee is \$1.90/semester and increases with the BC Consumer Price Index annually. We would like to see the Food Bank funded appropriately to ensure all students have access to this vital service.

Do you support increasing the Food Bank fee to \$3.00 per term with annual increases of the BC Consumer Price Index?"

**TASK: SAFARI and BICKLEY to bring the above noted draft referendum question on the Food Bank fee to the Student Affairs and Finance Committees respectively.**

## 5. CONDUCT COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

*Motion: RESOLVED that Bobby BICKLEY will chair the Conduct Committee to review a recent complaint.*

*M/S: MADDOX/SAFARI*

*CARRIED*

**TASK: TURNER to communicate with the Conduct Committee that Bobby will act as their chair for investigating a recent complaint.**

## 6. IN-CAMERA SESSION: PERSONNEL (NEIL'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW)

Lead: TURNER

For Discussion:

*Motion: RESOLVED to go in camera.*

*M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY*

*CARRIED*

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## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

### A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the November 1, 2022 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.*

*M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY*

*CARRIED*

### B. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

### C. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.



#### D. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

##### Item 1: Bathrooms on campus

*Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received.*

*M/S: MADDUX/BICKLEY*

*CARRIED*

**TASK: MADDUX to communicate with the student who submitted a request for advocacy around bathrooms on campus.**

#### E. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

1. Meeting Debrief: Exec to Exec Nov 2

2. Agenda Planning: Operational Relations Nov 21

ITEM: Food donation program and food bank funding solutions

Update on the meal share pilot project – how is the program going, what has uptake been like?

ITEM: Food Bank Funding

The GSS is currently engaging all available pathways to increase funding to this vital program (allocating money through the GRC as well as calling for the Special General Meeting to send additional funds, planning a fee increase referendum). What is the current state of UVic's support plan for the Food Bank?

**Tasks: TURNER to send agenda items to Jim Dunsdon's office for Operational Relations.**

3. Agenda Planning: Exec to Exec Dec 8

**TASK: TURNER to follow up by email to solicit agenda items for December Exec to Exec.**

#### F. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

#### G. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

Letters addressing mayors and council for Victoria, Saanich, and Oak Bay approved by Comms Comm by MADDUX and sent to TURNER for revisions.

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### CLOSING ITEMS

#### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Foregone.

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

Agenda item: Grad Dorm build (20 minutes minimum)

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Next Executive Meetings: Nov 29, 2022 –Land acknowledgement by: \_\_\_\_.

Next GRC Meeting: November 29, 2022

SAGM: March 21, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre will be closed Dec 19-Jan 2 for Winter Break.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 4:50pm.*

*M/S: MADDUX/BICKLEY*

*CARRIED*

kt/klp

X



Summer OKIBE  
GSS Chair 2022-23

X



Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director

