

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2023

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications; 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: Hannah Brown, Work Study (partial); Neil Barney, Operations and Services Manager (partial)

REGRETS: Summer OKIBE, Chair

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 with GAUBE in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

C. ICE BREAKER

Did you make any New Years Resolutions and have you broken them yet?

Some board members did make resolutions, particularly around self care and better mental health practices.

Minute taker note from TURNER: Good job, guys! Keep up the self-care. Your health is important.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: MADDOX/SAFARI

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. DORM BUILDING REPORT

Lead: BROWN

Reference:

For Discussion:

BROWN provided an update on the aims and progress on their research project on the suite distribution, size, layout of graduate dorms around Canada. BROWN started with an overview of the survey results (which had only received one response to date) as well as the suite floorplans that were available for UBC.

MADDOX recommended since the residence departments at a number of universities have yet to respond to BROWN's two survey requests that BROWN reach out to the grad student societies at these universities. SAFARI offered to bring the survey to GSSBC as well to alert UBC, SFU, and UNBC's GSS's of this survey.

BICKLEY asked what additional analysis BROWN intends to conduct. BROWN stated they needed more data to move forward.

TURNER recommended continuing BROWN's project as it is yielding good data, but also moving forward with a previous recommendation by GAUBE to look at northern European dorms (UK, Germany, Nordic countries). GAUBE cautioned that housing costs in Switzerland, Norway, Sweden may not be comparable to Canadian housing market. BROWN and SAFARI noted that an overall view of cost of education and living would be useful to cost compare. TURNER recommended focusing on listing best practices for UVic for them to plan the grad dorm build.

TASK: TURNER to move forward with a comparative study between Canadian and European grad dorms for the next Work Study hire.

MADDOX noted that special constraints of having a double or queen bed against the wall as an accessibility issue. BROWN noted multi-floor suites are an accessibility challenge as well. GAUBE asked if there were designated accessible suites at UBC. The GSS will recommend a high degree of accessibility in planning a grad dorm for UVic.

GAUBE asked if there is an angle that the BC government would find compelling in making our case to the government. MADDOX noted that bringing in an educated population may not be a compelling case to Canadian governments as Canada already ranks high globally for educational attainment. TURNER noted that we should wait for a response to our previous letter to the province before going ahead with further advocacy planning to the provincial government on this issue.

[BROWN left the meeting at 10:00]

2. GRC REPORT TEMPLATE AND REPORT REVIEW PROCESS

Lead: TURNER

Reference: GRC report template

For Discussion:

TURNER recommended holding off on deciding who should review reports until OKIBE returns. GAUBE offered to take them to Communications Committee ahead of the GRC meeting, followed by Student Affairs Committee (SAC) after the GRC meeting.

SAFARI expressed some concerns on scope creep with SAC. TURNER recommended having a robust structure to keep SAC focused on systemic advocacy campaigns rather than individual student needs.

DECISION: The Executive Board will instruct GRC reps to send their written reports to the Communications Coordinator the Thursday before a GRC meeting. The Communications Coordinator will forward the received reports to the Communications Committee on Friday before GRC. Communications Committee will review these reports the Monday before GRC. Reports that require response from GSS will be brought to GRC in the meeting. GRC can then opt to forward any significant complaints on to Student Affairs Committee.

DECISION: We will put the GRC Rep Monthly Report template on the GRC agenda in January for discussion and instructions. Thereafter, we will implement in the use of these reports in February.

DECISION: The next discussion questions will be: how did you get elected to GRC (Zackary DERRICK's question from December GRC). What events would you like to see done? Thoughts on specific advocacy campaigns?

3. EXECUTIVE BOARD SEMESTER WORK PLAN

Reference: Annual Plan; work plan template; work plans submitted by board members

For Discussion:

MADDOX, BICKLEY, GAUBE, and SAFARI noted that they have not had sufficient time to draft their own work plans for the semester.

Discussion tabled.

TASK: Board members to draft work plans for their last semester in office for the February 1, 2023 board meeting.

4. HYBRID MEETING FEEDBACK

For Discussion:

BICKLEY noted no issues with technology. The speaker and camera work well and the room 112 seems well mic'd. MADDOX also noted having a camera for each person really helps.

DECISION: The Executive Board will meet hybrid for the January 2023 GRC meeting and put the option of a fully hybrid GRC on that agenda for a discussion.

5. IN-CAMERA SESSION

Lead: TURNER

For Discussion: Staff change

[BARNEY arrived at 10:25]

Motion: RESOLVED to go in camera at 10:26am.

M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY

CARRIED

The board rose from in-camera at 10:42.

[BARNEY left meeting at 10:42]

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the January 3, 2023 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: MADDOX/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):

December 13, 2023: GAUBE is a now a signing authority.

Jan 3, 2023: TASK: TURNER to circulate the annual plan and a work plan template. All board members to review annual plan and input their work plans onto the template (by portfolio). Agenda item: Work plan approval.

Task: TURNER to circulate meeting calendar invites for board and GRC January-July 2023.

TASK: TURNER to create a template for GRC rep feedback ahead of meetings.

G. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Please find supporting documents for further info on committees either in Appendix C or hyperlinked in the committee name.

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

Committee: Appointment Committee for the Deputy Provost

Member name:

M/S:

Tabled.

DECISION: Appointment Committee for Deputy Provost Nominations sent to GRC.

H. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No correspondence received.

I. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Agenda Planning: GRC January 24 – we to circulate the agenda after the January 17 board meeting.

TASK: TURNER to circulate GRC agenda to GRC.

2. Agenda planning: Strategies for moving the discussion forward in the Jan 19 Operational Relations Meeting?
 - i. Where on campus? Are we looking at a high rise or shorter building? What is foreseeable for the University for planning this building? Will there be a freight elevator?
 - ii. Items that GSS does not recommend single bed hallway style dorms. No communal washrooms or kitchens by floor.
 - iii. Request an event space with shared kitchen.
 - iv. Adding in bidet for the many international students as part of the gender inclusivity of bathrooms?

TASK: TURNER to alert Operational Relationship Committee Members of forthcoming questions.

J. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

K. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: OKIBE absent with regrets.

Director of Communications: GAUBE no report.

Director of Finance: BICKLEY no report

Director of Services: MADDOX FGS Council meeting report: FGS is coming out with new guidelines for the results of final oral exams to add clarity on how results will be delivered to students. FGS is proposing to Senate a part-time study option for graduate students. Currently only students with disabilities can study part time. This would allow others. It would still appear at 3.0 credits, so it wouldn't effect health insurance, immigration, or major grants. However it may exclude part-time students from RA and TA work. SAFARI asked if part-time students were dorm eligible. MADDOX believed so as the enrolment would still be 3.0 units.

Several program changes are under consideration at FGS Council: e.g. Master's in Nursing now being a two year thesis program versus a three year Master's. Discussions at FGS Council have mentioned the "watering down of education" instead of looking at alternative ways of knowing and learning.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI no report.

Executive Director: TURNER no report.

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, 2023 –Land acknowledgement by: ____.

Next GRC Meeting: January 24, 2023

SAGM: March 21, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: Halpern Centre will closed for Reading Week Feb 20-24.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.

M/S: MADDOX/SAFARI

CARRIED

X

Greg GAUBE
GSS Vice Chair 2022-23

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

