

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Graduate Representative Council

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2023, 5-7 PM

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

Anthropology: Rachel Hooton	Studies: Sindhu Merwin	Pacific and Asian Studies: Ivan Garcimartin Carmona
Biology: Sarah Lane, Talen Rimmer	Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton	Physics and Astronomy: Samuel Fielder
Business: Ethan Sun	Greek and Roman Studies: Alix Galumbeck	Political Science: Katy Rosnau
Chemistry: Harvey MacKenzie; Mitch Nascimento	Health Information Science: Dee Dee Wong, Evangeline Wagner	Social Dimensions of Health: Olvie Li
Computer Science: Andrea Nguyen	Linguistics: Matthew Somerville, Rosemary Webb	Sociology: Tyler Branston
Curriculum and Instruction: Lindsay Beal		Theatre: Barbara Clerihue
Educational Psychology and Leadership		

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

Director of Communications: Greg GAUBE	Director of Student Affairs: Nahid SAFARI
Director of Services: Wyatt MADDOX	Executive Director: Kyla TURNER (non-voting)

Invited Guests: None.

Recorder: TURNER

Regrets Received:

Summer OKIBE, Chair;

Director of Finance: Bobby BICKLEY

GSS Governance Coordinator

Art History and Visual Studies: Sarah Roberts, Megan Austin

Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies: Weiyi Liu

English: Lucie Kotěšovská

French: Cédric Trahan

Geography: Kali McDougall

Public Administration: Stephanie Dahling

Absent:

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Ladan Kalani (GSS Electoral Officer), Loc Ngo

Civil Engineering: David Serrano Suarez, Prakriti Raizada

Earth & Ocean Sciences: Moronke Harris

Electrical and Computer Engineering: Amer Kumar, Anushka Singh

Law: Kirsty Broadhead

Medical Sciences/Neuroscience: Kamal Narayana

Music: Sean Kiley

Nursing: Lorilee Scott

Political Science: Katy Rosnau

Psychology: Cian Dabrowski

Public Health & Social Policy: Zachary Derrick

Sociology: Hossein Rahmati

CUPE 4163: Kaitlyn Diederichs

MOTION: RESOLVED that the Executive Board reports from December 2022 are accepted for MADDIX and SAFARI, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Board reports for December 2022 from GAUBE and BICKLEY are approved upon receipt, as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

M/S: Stipend Review Committee/FIELDER

Discussion: GALUMBECK confirmed receipt of GAUBE and BICKLEY's reports.

CARRIED

H. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND INFORMATION SHARING

LEAD: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Councillors will have a chance to discuss issues facing colleagues in their unit and UVic graduate students in general.

To encourage open discussion, detailed minutes are not taken of this discussion. Members are encouraged to have their update recorded in the official minutes by emailing their report to gssgov@uvic.ca for inclusion.

MACKENZIE: reported as a new council that a priority for grad students in Chemistry is RA unionization. MACKENZIE would like to see more focus from the GSS on the unionization campaign for research assistants, especially those who are otherwise less protected, including international student. Chemistry also has started a departmental grad student association.

GARCIMARTIN: TA hours and positions have significantly decreased within the Pacific and Asian Department (while having a very reduced amount of Grad Students), and I hope this can go up a bit more since there are people who rely on this money

PAQUETTE-STRUGER: Geography is starting a graduate student union for Geography. Geo is also planning a student conference shortly. PAQUETTE-STRUGER invited interested members to attend and present work.

LI: SDH is currently planning a student conference in April.

BEAL: Asked for advice from other GRC reps how they are contacting their constituents. GAUBE noted that their department secretary set up a listserv. MADDIX recommended gathering an email list and forming a department grad student association. MERWIN and LI recommended a facebook group. CLERIHUE and MACKENZIE recommended Slack. HOOTON noted that their department keeps a list of contacts as well and group chats. CLERIHUE uses zoom meetings to bring folks together. FIELDER recommended Discord.

LANE: Had good success in hosting informal events organized through Slack for social activities. Grassroots socializing has lead to more connection and coffee breaks returning to the working norm. LANE also looking to get UVic to comment more on funding openly in Biology. RIMMER followed up asking whether and how stipend funding discussions are going in their department. FIELDER and MACKENZIE noted funding discussions are happening in their departments and some students are Master'ing out of degrees. Some PIs are pulling RA funding when student take on paid work to support themselves during their studies. Chemistry and Physics has been blaming NSERC on the funding shortfalls. GAUBE noted that the University is continuing forward with bringing in more students than they can fully fund in order to maintain graduate rates with current attrition levels.

BURTON noted that her department is looking for support in planning funding surveys and events.

2. HYBRID MEETINGS STARTING IN FEBRUARY

Lead: MADDUX

Reference: None

For: Decision

Is there support from GRC to begin hybrid meetings in February?

DISCUSSION: BEAL, FIELDER, Li, GARCIMARTIN, expressed support. WAGNER, HOOTON, WEBB, MERWIN and CLERIHUE needed a virtual option to remain in place.

FIELDER asked about mic'ing and cameras. GAUBE, MADDUX provided response with current tech availability.

DECISION: The February GRC meeting will be hybrid meeting will fulsome directions on attendance, location, time, food, etc. provided to all GRC reps at least one week ahead of time by email alongside the agenda.

3. EVENT CHECK IN

Lead: MADDUX

Reference: None

For: Discussion

Is the GSS currently offering the events you would like to see?

Discussion: BEAL felt the BBQ and Pancake Breakfast were awesome and led to good discussion and connections among members. Having a host to make introductions for grad students attending solo is very helpful.

NASCIMENTO noted that in Chemistry, they are having events focused on low-key, unstructured events, like pub nights, which have been going well. Chemistry has a pub crawl and board game nights/movie nights planned. He plans to trial these in Chemistry and bring them to the GSS as there is good success. MADDUX offered space and board games to Chemistry. NASCIMENTO noted that Chemistry is already booked for a board game night at GSS February 9.

WEBB has good turn out for zoom writing/working groups, with low-key social activities and food at the end. SOMERVILLE already has a proposal writing group planned in Events Committee! TURNER promoted the Thesis Writing Group at Centre for Academic Communications that was initially a GSS event taken over by CAC. WEBB noted this service was helpful.

MACKENZIE noted that combining a food drive and the pancake breakfast broke down clarity in advertising and some members felt they shouldn't attend without a donation. MADDUX advertise the grab and go meals at Wednesday Coffees for the rest of term.

CLOSING ITEMS

A. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES:

Open Floor to hear any reports from graduate student representatives on:

- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council: FGS is planned to bring out new communication to supervisors regarding how to communicate results of oral defenses to standardize this process. FGS Council is also moving to approve part-time study on the basis of need (e.g. family care,

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of Feb 14, 2023.
- Agenda to be posted: Feb 21, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: GSS office will be closed Feb 20-24 for Reading Week.

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 7:00pm

M/S: BEAL/BURTON

APPROVED BY CONSENT

X

Greg GAUBE
GSS Vice Chair 2022-23

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director