

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Graduate Representative Council

(ONLINE VIA ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

FEBRUARY 28, 2023, 5-7 PM

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

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Ladan Kalani (GSS Electoral Officer)

Biology: Sarah Lane

Business: Ethan Sun

Chemistry: Harvey MacKenzie; Mitch Nascimento

Civil Engineering: David Serrano Suarez
Prakriti Raizada

Computer Science: Andrea Nguyen

Curriculum and Instruction: Lindsay Beal
Educational Psychology and Leadership

Studies: Weiyi Liu

English: Lucie Kotěšovská

Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton

Greek and Roman Studies: Alix

Galumbeck

Health Information Science: Dee Dee

Wong, Evangeline Wagner

Linguistics: Matthew Somerville,
Rosemary Webb

Nursing: Lorilee Scott

Physics and Astronomy: Samuel Fielder

Political Science: Katy Rosnau,

Public Health & Social Policy: Zackary
Derrick

Social Dimensions of Health: Olvie Li

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

Director of Communications: Greg GAUBE

Director of Finance: Bobby BICKLEY

Director of Services: Wyatt MADDOX

Director of Student Affairs: Nahid SAFARI

Executive Director: Kyla TURNER (non-voting)

Invited Guests: None.

Recorder: TURNER

Regrets Received:

Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies: Sindhu Merwin

Public Administration: Stephanie Dahling

Sociology: Tyler Branston,

Theatre: Barbara Clerihue

Absent:

Chair: Summer OKIBE

Anthropology: Rachel Hooton

Art History and Visual Studies: Sarah Roberts, Megan Austin

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Loc Ngo

Biology: Sarah Lane

Earth & Ocean Sciences: Moronke Harris

Electrical and Computer Engineering: Amer Kumar, Anushka Singh

Geography: Kali McDougall

Law: Kirsty Broadhead

Medical Sciences/Neuroscience: Kamal Narayana

Music: Sean Kiley

Pacific and Asian Studies: Ivan Garcimartin Carmona

Political Science: Marlowe Evans **Psychology:** Cian Dabrowski

CUPE 4163: Kaitlyn Diederichs

CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, with GAUBE in the chair.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5:01 PM

Councillors (non-Executive Board members) are asked to take a turn to provide a personal statement of land acknowledgement.

Today's personal land acknowledgement was provided by Olvie LI including her own history on colonized lands and an invitation to reflect on the territories over the course of their lifetimes.

STANDING ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: Executive Board/NASCIMENTO

CARRIED

B. TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER

Today's timekeeper is: LUCIE KOTESOVSKA.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: RESOLVED the Minutes of the January 24, 2023 GRC meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: WEBB/DERRICK

CARRIED

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/PAST MEETINGS

If you, or your committee, were assigned a task at a previous meeting, please provide an update. This is also the time for Councillors to ask follow-up questions on previously assigned tasks and motions.

No reports.

E. MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE

GSS Membership: As of January 30, 2023 there are 2962 GSS Members.

GRC Membership: GRC now consists of representatives from 33 academic units (out of 45 academic units eligible), 1 CUPE representative, and 5 Executive Board members.

Meeting Quorum: With 3 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 18.

Meeting Guests: Any non-voting reps or co-reps? Please identify yourself so we can welcome you!

F. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Moved to new business

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

LEAD: GALUMBECK

REF DOCS: Executive Board Reports Folder

Councillors are required to read the Executive Board reports (REF DOC on Connect) prior to the meeting.

MOTION: RESOLVED to approve the January 2023 Board reports for MADDOX, BICKLEY, SAFARI, and GAUBE.

M/S: Stipend Review Committee/BEAL

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.

Discussion:

MITCHELL noted that students in Chemistry are working on stipend increases for all graduate students. Based on cost of living for Chemistry grad students in Canada, UVic offers the lowest stipend compared to cost of living across Canada. MITCHELL is seeking support from the GSS on stipend increases for all grad students.

SERRANO-SUAREZ noted that in Civil Engineering is looking at a possible reduction in TA hours, and therefore a reduction in stipends. SERRANO-SUAREZ is likewise seeking support in stipend increases.

NGUYEN asked if other programs have non-thesis programs as in Computer Science does not fund non-thesis programs. DERRICK noted the same. TURNER noted that taught Master's degrees (non-thesis, project based, etc.) are frequently unfunded across Canada as these grad students do not conduct research at the university, however there is room to establish standardize funding packages for non-taught Master's and PhDs. SERRANO-SUAREZ shared concerns that funding packages are negotiated directly with your supervisor, leading to a power differential in negotiating stipends.

MITCHELL raised the issue of standardizing degree requirements to decrease time to completion so more students remain funded until completion. WAGNER noted that her program ends funded after 4 years.

The Executive Board may wish to begin a standardized stipend package campaign for the 2023-24 Annual Plan. TURNER advises to keep this item frequently before GRC to

DERRICK reported HSD council reports concerns around grade inflation, and that budget cuts could result in fewer course offerings. The course cuts could result in grad students in HSD not being able to complete their program as intended. WAGNER noted similar concerns.

I. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

J. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES – VACANCIES

LEAD: TURNER

As per GSS Bylaws, Grad Councillors are asked to sit on at least one UVic Committee to ensure graduate student interests are represented. There are currently 3 vacancies to be filled. For information on each committee please see the GSS webpage: <https://gss.uvic.ca/about-gss/get-involved/committees/grad-representation-at-uvic/>

MOTION: RESOLVED the following graduate student representatives are elected to the following UVic committees, accordingly:

Committee: Adjudication Committee for Award for Excellence in Teaching for Experiential Learning

Member: Sarah LANE

Member: Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Leadership and Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching

Member: Lucie KOTESOVKA

M/S: FIELDER/SOMERVILLE

CARRIED

Decision: Appointment Committee for the Associate VP Academic Planning returned to the Executive Board.

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. UPDATE ON OKIBE LEAVE

Lead: GAUBE

Reference: None

For: Information

Discussion: GAUBE reported that Summer OKIBE's medical leave and the lack of communication around a return to work plan. She asked for an urgent medical leave on January 18, 2023 and asked for two weeks recovery on January 21. Since early February, she has not been in contact with the Board or SRC to set return to work plans. Under our Bylaws, if a board member misses 3 consecutive meetings without regrets, they are deemed to have resigned. OKIBE has missed two consecutive meetings at the time of writing. Under the Bylaws and Executive Board Vacancy we the option to either replace the Chair from within the Board or to leave the seat unfilled for March 2023.

2. MEDIA RELATIONS RE: FOOD SECURITY

Lead: MADDUX

Reference: Vic News Report

For: Information

Discussion: MADDUX provided an overview of current media relations around food security. NASCIMENTO submitted an FOI request to the Campus Food Bank for their financial information without results. NASCIMENTO asked if UVic would be able to provide Campus Food Bank financial data. TURNER responded that the question should be directed to UVSS, but they are legally separate and UVic doesn't influence their finances.

NASCIMENTO has been in touch with local food banks and felt that they were able and willing to support students and have more structured financial practices than the Camps Food Bank. These may be a viable pathway to offer food security programs

BEAL noted that the food rescue programs like Community Cabbage are available to support food sovereignty. SAFARI also shared resources through UVic Family Centre, but noted that students appreciate food hampers with ingredients instead of pre-made meals but experienced barriers in accessing food security programs due to stigma.

LI brought up the Community Kitchen and Rainbow fridge as a resource. LI recommended partnering with these resources to work on campus. LI also noted that media relations could focus on the reality that students supporting families to decrease stigma around the idea that post-secondary students are rich. GAUBE noted concerns around courting xenophobia in focusing on international students as food insecure.

DECISION: The GSS will prepare a list of reputable food security and food sovereignty programs operating in the Victoria area to direct both those who may need to access these services and those who may be able to donate.

TASK: The Communications Committee will prepare the same listed above.

DECISION: GRC recommends that 2023-24 include within their Annual Plan a campaign on Food Security that focuses on partnering with established community services and bringing these partnerships to campus.

3. REPORT ON MEETING WITH MAYOR MURDOCK (SAANICH)

Lead: MADDUX/SAFARI

Reference: None

For: Information

DISCUSSION: MADDUX reported that MURDOCK's highly focused on affordability and bringing in the "missing middle" housing through high-rise housing around Mackenzie Ave, Quadra, and Shelbourne. These housing complexes would need to be well-serviced by transit and have integrated services like grocery stores. SAFARI noted that MURDOCK is looking at 12-16 storey builds and significantly increasing density while maintaining green space. MADDUX also noted his priorities for community safety (e.g. reduced speed limits).

Mayor MURDOCK encouraged further collaboration and support for joint campaigns.

4. ANONYMOUS REPORTING TOOL FOR SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE

Lead:

Reference: EQHR Correspondence Related to Anonymous Reporting Tool for Sexualized Violence

For: Discussion

DISCUSSION: TURNER noted that UVic has a new Anonymous Reporting Tool for Sexualized Violence they are piloting. KALANI noted that it would be preferable to be asked for feedback during the development process for this pilot project. TURNER asked GRC reps to keep their departments informed of this tool.

2. NEW STANDING ITEM: GRAD HOUSE EVENTS IN MARCH!

Lead: GAUBE

Reference: GSS Events Calendar

For: Discussion

DISCUSSION: GAUBE noted that there will be Coffee with Alumni on March 8 and Board Game night on March 10. MADDOX noted Wednesday Coffees in Side Project Café all month.

CLOSING ITEMS

A. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES:

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

- UVic Advisory Committees: DERRICK reported that the EQHR EDI Advisory Committee is defunct. The new "Learning and Advisory Committee" is reviewing UVic's discrimination and harassment policy for the first time in the first 4-5 years.

B. GRC COMMITTEE, ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Appeals: MADDOX Appeals met and adjudicate appeals. AC has also updated their terms of reference including a definition of why the AC exists and updates deadlines for adjudication of appeals to not include business days when the GSS is non-operational.
- Bylaw & Policy: DERRICK as vice chair reported that the BPC has not met since December due to OKIBE's leave. Therefore no policy and bylaw amendments will be proposed for the SAGM. KALANI noted that there was a communication gap with both OKIBE and the Governance Coordinator seats being vacant at the moment.
- Communications: GAUBE Communications Committee finished the audit of communication platforms. In March they will create action plans for those channels. Comms Comm approved a solidarity statement template and communication materials for the referenda. They've also began the review of other promotional materials like the "one-pager" distributed at orientations.
- Events: MADDOX Events Committee has planned events in March as reported above. Additionally, there will be an Observatory trip and an outing to the Belfry theatre in March. MADDOX extended an invite to all grad students to drop into Events Committee meetings.

- Finance: BICKLEY Fin Com consulted on the annual budget in February. The line item names for our budget have been updated to increase transparency. Fin Com oversaw budget consultations with staff and board.
- Student Affairs: SAFARI SAC met in February to work on food security/sovereignty, international student MSP, and sustainability. In March, SAFARI will focus on international student MSP and transitioning out of her role after two years.
- Stipend Review: GALUMBECK SRC met twice in February, regarding January board reports and OKIBE's leave. SRC recommends an increase to board stipends for approval at the SAGM. SRC's next project will be policying stipends for board members on leave.
- Electoral Officer: KALANI reported that all positions except Finance were uncontested and will be ratified at the SAGM. Director of Finance will be elected at the SAGM.

C. 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. Bring information about rallies, events, good information and resource links and be ready to post in the CHAT!

GAUBE noted that the Chem undergrads will be having an honours fest in March. LANE noted a Women in Science event in March info here: <https://www.uvicwomeninscience.com/>. DERRICK noted "The School of Public Health and Social Policy (PHSP) and the PHSP Student Association invite you to join us for an online Lunch 'n Learn session on Tuesday March 7th, 12:00-1:00pm Pacific."

D. NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING

Please see Appendix D for a GRC Agenda Item template.

E. IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS: CHECK YOUR GRC CONNECT HOMEPAGE CALENDAR!

Next GRC Meeting: April 25, 2023

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of April 11, 2023
- Agenda to be posted: April 18, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: None.

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 6:38 pm.

M/S: SOMERVILLE/WONG

CARRIED

X

Greg GAUBE
GSS Vice Chair 2022-23

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

