

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MAR 15, 2023

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications; Bobby BICKLEY, Director of Finance; Nahid Pourdolat SAFARI, Director of Student Affairs; Wyatt MADDOX, Director of Services and Interim-Director of Communications; Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 with GAUBE in the chair.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: MADDOX/SAFARI

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. UVIC BUDGET CUTS: GSS RESPONSE

Lead: MADDOX

For: Discussion

Discussion: UVic presented the upcoming tuition increase (2%) and housing/meal plan increase (10%) for the 2023-24 academic year. There will be a 4% budget reduction across UVic and staffing cuts are already taking place. For example, the director of LTSI, who runs the LATHE program, was dismissed without a plan for continuing the LATHE program for the current cohort.

What are the main points that GSS wants to focus on?

Should leadership take a small salary cut (4%?) for a single year to support awards? (Anyone making over \$300K? Anyone in the VP suite and above?)

GRC Question: What should the GSS response to the UVic budget cuts of 4% be?

2. GENERAL UPKEEP AT THE GSS

Lead: GAUBE

For Discussion:

Discussion:

GAUBE presented an overview of GSS brand recognition and small tasks that could be improved including:

- removing tape from floor and buff
- resecuring table legs
- Re-installing the board game shelves
- outdoor paint
- fencing
- resecuring light posts outside
- new sandwich board

TURNER advised that maintenance of strictly GSS property (tables, sandwich board) can be done by GSS staff, however UVic property (building, outdoor spaces) must go through the unionized facilities management at UVic. SAFARI seconded the issues with table legs. MADDOX noted that he will bring in chalk markers to increase our presentation of new info. GAUBE will order new sandwich boards and stickers. TURNER

TASK: TURNER to assign Neil Barney to purchase chalkboard markers, 3 sandwich boards, GSS and GH logos stickers that are minimum 6 inches in diameter and weather tolerant.

3. GRAD HOUSE PLAN PRESENTATION

Lead: GAUBE

For Discussion:

Discussion: GAUBE presented an overview of his plans for the patio furniture upgrades, starting with power washing for all outdoor areas, outdoor painting, etc. For the back patio, GAUBE recommends German beer garden style seating. The end goal is to encourage dialogue between different grad students by having primarily long, multi-group tables. We should install a lock box for outdoor games, "no drinks beyond this point" sign, etc.

For the front patio, GAUBE presented a French café style to facilitate small personal meetings and more intimate conversations for the front patio.

MADDOX is in favour of prioritizing the back patio as a revenue generating space. TURNER noted that the front patio could be used for outdoor arts and crafts for messier projects.

TASK: TURNER to assign Neil Barney purchasing of beer garden style tables, four heaters, hanging outdoor lighting in warm colour bulbs, additional outdoor seating.

4. SWITCHING CONNECT TO TEAMS

Lead: TURNER

For Discussion:

TURNER provided an overview of the move from Connect to Teams.

5. FUTURE OF WORK STUDY

Lead: TURNER

For Discussion:

WS positions at the GSS have been rotating research positions for the last three years. The benefit we see as an organization is outstripped by the loss of management time for onboarding and support for these

positions, because we are often hiring for less than 100 hours total labour per person. TURNER recommends coming up with fixed WS positions for the GSS where training can be standardized. This will mean not having project based work, but opens the door to student support work.

Does the board support starting a weekly peer support drop in time (possibly during and after Wednesday Coffee) through WS hours for the 2023-24 Academic Year?

TASK: TURNER to present WS applications to the Board in May.

6. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Lead: TURNER

Reference: March 31, 2023 Board Agenda Draft

For Decision

We have a very full, but technical agenda for March 31 for fiscal year end approvals. Does the board have sufficient business to justify hosting a meeting on March 29? If not, we can cancel.

Motion: RESOLVED the March 29, 2023 Board meeting is cancelled.

M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY

CARRIED

7. IN-CAMERA SESSION: PERSONNEL

Lead: TURNER

For Discussion: Grievance Update and OKIBE update.

Motion: RESOLVED to go in camera at 10:23 am

M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY

CARRIED

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the March 1, 2023 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: MADDOX/SAFARI

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

Tasks Completed/Decisions fully acted upon:

Oct 24, DECISION: No action required on a special general meeting in light of KENT's resignation from the board.

Feb 15, TASK: TURNER to send OKIBE a text noting that communications will occur through the WhatsApp group and email with MADDOX and GAUBE as leads. OKIBE will be required to respond within 48 hours to respond (end of day Friday.) An email follow up noting that OKIBE needs to provide the board and SRC

weekly communications about her return to work plans. GAUBE and MADDOX to lead to communications with OKIBE via WhatsApp or email until her return to work and maintain contact with her on a biweekly basis.

Feb 15, TASK: MADDOX, GAUBE to draft report to GRC regarding the coverage of Chair duties from January and February 2023.

Feb 15, TASK: All Executive Board members to complete their annual reports for the AGM and upload to Connect by February 23, 2023. MADDOX and GAUBE to draft the board's report on the annual plan for the SAGM. TURNER to provide the board a Connect site to share all reports

Mar 1, TASK: GAUBE to communicate with CUPE to book a pancake breakfast in the last week of March.

Mar 1, TASKS: TURNER to deprovision OKIBE's access to Connect, email, etc. GAUBE to communicate with OKIBE and Stipend Review Committee regarding the resignation.

Mar 1, TASK: TURNER to send GRC Committee membership lists and attendance information.

Mar 1: GAUBE to invite CUPE 4163 to present to the 2023-24 board in April on the process of unionization. TURNER to communicate with new board on scheduling to allow for CUPE presentation to be booked.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: March OR Follow Up

Item 2: AVP Academic Planning

Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received.

M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY

CARRIED

TASK: SAFARI and TURNER to attend AVP Academic Planning meeting on March 16, 2023.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting Debrief: Operational Relations Mar 3

Discussion: there are issues with the economy of scale in providing both quality and quantity of food required by campus community members and paying a living wage to staff for on-campus food. Food trucks potentially present an issue on affordability. UBC is only raising their residence fees by 3-8% and are cheaper than UVic, so the 10% increase puts UVic in a less competitive position than other BC universities.

2. Meeting Debrief: GRC Feb 28

3. SAGM Task list

Attendance: MADDOX

Powerpoint: GAUBE

Budget presentation: BICKLEY

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Director of Communications: GAUBE is planning year end parties for STEM and Humanities/Arts/Social Sciences. Attendance at planning meetings for non-STEM was low and needs to be encouraged.

Director of Student Affairs: SAFARI requested a presentation on Climate Action and Sustainability for the April 25, 2023 GRC meeting from UVic. SAFARI to connect with Climate Action and Sustainability and request a presentation. The Campus Suicide Prevention Committee requested the GSS made poster for "prioritizing wellness" be circulated, and it was.

Executive Director: TURNER provided an update on staffing and training. Petri is finishing her probationary period and exceeding expectations. Irfan is onboarding well.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

March 31: year end motions: Removal and Appointment of signing authorities, removal and appointment from UVic committees, removal and appointment of the Personnel Officer, payment of the electoral officer, year end financial transfers to Employee Leave Fund and Interfund Loans, renewal of Volunteer Victoria Membership

April 25, 2023 – GRC – Climate Action and Sustainability presentation.

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: March 31, 2023 –Land acknowledgement by: ____.

Next GRC Meeting: April 25, 2023

SAGM: March 21, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 10:51am.

M/S: MADDOX/BICKLEY

CARRIED

X

Greg GAUBE
GSS Vice Chair 2022-23

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director
