

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
Graduate Representative Council

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 25, 2023, 5-7 PM

Elected Academic Unit Reps (1 vote per academic unit) Invited (as of April 3, 2023):

Art History and Visual Studies: Sarah Roberts

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Ladan Kalani

Biology: Sarah Lane, Talen Rimmer

Business: Ethan Sun

Chemistry: Harvey MacKenzie

Curriculum and Instruction: Yi Qian, Denneisha Griffin

Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton

Health Information Science: Dee Dee Wong, Evangeline Wagner

Linguistics: Rosemary Webb

Political Science: Katy Rosnau,

Public Health & Social Policy: Zachary Derrick

Social Dimensions of Health: Olvie Li

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

Chair: Wyatt Maddox

Director of Communications: Greg Gaube

Director of Finance: Samuel Fielder

Director of Services: Mitch Nascimento

Director of Student Affairs: Lindsay Beal

Executive Director: Kyla TURNER (non-voting)

Recorder: Kyla Turner, Executive Director and Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator

Regrets Received:

Biochemistry & Microbiology: Loc Ngo

Computer Science: Andrea Nguyen

Earth & Ocean Sciences: Moronke Harris

English: Lucie Kotěšovská

Theatre: Barbara Clerihue

Absent:

Anthropology: Rachel Hooton,

Art History and Visual Studies: Megan Austin

Civil Engineering: David Serrano Suarez, Prakriti Raizada

Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies: Weiyi Liu, Sindhu Merwin

Electrical and Computer Engineering: Amer Kumar, Anushka Singh

Geography: Kali McDougall

Greek and Roman Studies: Ben Watts-Wooldridge

Law: Kirsty Broadhead

Medical Sciences/Neuroscience: Kamal Narayana

Music: Sean Kiley

Nursing: Lorilee Scott

Pacific and Asian Studies: Ivan Garcimartin Carmona

Psychology: Cian Dabrowski

Political Science: Marlowe Evans

Sociology: Tyler Branston, Hossein Rahmati

CUPE 4163: Kaitlyn Diederichs

CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm with MADDUX in the Chair

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Today's personal land acknowledgement will be provided by KALANI.

STANDING ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: Executive Board/MACKENZIE

CARRIED

B. TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER

Today's timekeeper was: KALANI.

C. MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE

GSS Membership: As of January 24, 2023 there are 3161 GSS Members.

Meeting Quorum: With 5 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 16.

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

D. CHAIR'S REMARKS

MADDOX updated GRC on the goings on of the Executive Board: they are onboarding well and will be starting their committees soon.

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

- Appeals: NASCIMENTO The new board members have received appeals training. This committee will be meeting for the first time since the board change over soon.
- Bylaw & Policy: MADDOX The BPC has not yet met since the board turn over, however Chair and Vice Chair have met. This committee will be meeting for the first time since the board change over soon.
- Communications: GAUBE Communications have been running smoothly in revising the GSS social media presence and annual handbook.
- Events: NASCIMENTO the two end of year parties went very well. Events Committee will be meeting for the first time since the board change over soon. Standing events (board game nights, knitting circle and miniature [and mini canvas!] painting nights) are forthcoming or started in April. Keep an eye out for music bingo and trivia.
- Finance: FIELDER This committee will be meeting for the first time since the board change over soon. But FIELDER is meeting regularly with management on financial administration.
- Student Affairs: BEAL This committee will be meeting for the first time since the board change over soon.
- Stipend Review: WAGNER SRC has met and fulfilled all duties for this period.
- Electoral Officer: BURTON no report.

E. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS

MOTION: RESOLVED the following GSS members are excused from the 2022-23 Standing Committees accordingly:

Bylaw and Policy: Ladan Kalani as April 26

Communications: Samuel Fielder

Events: Stephanie Dahling, Matthew Sommerville, Wyatt Maddox

Stipend Review: Alix Galumbeck

FUTHER RESOLVED the 2022-23 GRC reps are appointed to the GRC Standing Committees as follows:

Events: Ladan Kalani

Student Affairs: Denneisha Griffin, Yi Qian

M/S: GRIFFIN/BURTON

CARRIED

F. OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS

LEAD: MADDUX AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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

DISCUSSION:

QIAN requested that orientation events be expanded into late September and early October to catch the folks that arrive after the first week of September. QIAN and ROBERTS recommended a buddy system. ROBERTS noted that Global Community runs a buddy program and are always looking for more volunteers for grad students. FIELDER noted his department runs its own buddy program.

KALANI requested a peer led writing accountability group. NASCIMENTO noted that Events Committee may look at piloting a Wednesday afternoon writing group over this summer. TURNER noted that the Centre for Academic Communications took over the Thesis Writing Group and moved it to the Library. This group can offer expert assistance on research, citation, and academic writing. However, a peer accountability group is a gap in services the GSS can and should fill.

GAUBE highlighted DABROWSKI's report on equity in funding. RIMMER asked after the Support our Science National Walk Out. GAUBE and MADDUX reported on the planning for the Support our Science May 1 Walk Out that will be occurring in the Quad at 10:00. MADDUX also reported on his meeting with BEAL and Laurel Collins, MP Victoria (NDP) on the matter of increasing Tri-Council funding. MACKENZIE noted that there is an interest in speakers at the Walk Out. The Board will review plans for the Walk Out tomorrow, April 26.

BURTON reported concerns about the UVic budget cuts in the coming year. Graduate secretaries have been impacted by the hiring freeze. FIELDER and NASCIMENTO seconded this, gave further context and recommended bringing concerns to your department's Chair as they are responsible for deciding where cuts will be made. ROBERTS noted the increases to residence and dining fees of 10%. TURNER reported that ancillary services (like residence and dining) are required to be fully funded by fees charged.

BREAK

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. MEET THE NEW BOARD!

Lead: MADDUX

Reference: None

Discussion:

MADDOX introduced the 2023-24 board and gave them time to discuss their goals and interests. This board will be focused on events, community building and connecting members to organizations on and off campus around social justice issues and recreation.

GAUBE is focused on promoting our events and successes to our members. Social media will be a significant focus for Communications Committee this year, as well as revitalizing The GSS: The Brand.

FIEDLER noted his position is more internally focused than other board positions, but he is looking forward to supporting all of his board team members and the successes of our governance and advocacy.

NASCIMENTO is bringing in more standing, consistent events, particularly in the Grad House. He hopes to get new people involved and having planned stress breaks for our members.

BEAL noted her experience in inclusive leadership and circular leadership structures and her current committee load in representing member needs around orientations, fairness, and climate justice.

MADDOX is focussed on community building and membership engagement.

DERRICK requested more online events for distance students and students with disabilities.

NASCIMENTO will report on this in another agenda item.

2. OPERATIONAL RELATIONS UPDATE

Lead: MADDOX

Reference: None

Discussion:

MADDOX updated the GRC on waste management. There are empty staff positions, but UVic is aware of the need for increased custodial services. UVic recommended reporting on the Facilities Management Information System, which is not accessible to students. ROBERTS recommends trash cans in the bus loop and library, GAUBE in the non-bus loop bus stops, and MADDOX the smoking areas.

MADDOX reported on the change from a 500 bed debt-funded grad dorm to a 1000 bed grant-funded mixed upper-year undergrad and grad dorm. MADDOX noted that the GSS has taken the position that a grad dorm needs to be grad exclusive as grad students are in a very different stage of life. ROBERTS noted affordability needs further advocacy.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA

Lead: GAUBE

Reference: None

Discussion:

GAUBE reported increased uptake on Instagram and reddit. Please follow, like and share!

4. EVENTS

Lead: NASCIMENTO

Reference: None

Discussion:

NASCIMENTO reported on plans for standing events that are hobby focussed, including board games, miniature painting, and knitting. Materials available! But also feel free to bring your projects and co-work on them like a maker space. Fridays are going to be pub-focussed events like music bingo and trivia.

STANDING ITEMS 2 AND CLOSING ITEMS

B. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES

LEAD: MADDOX

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

- Senate: ROBERTS reported on the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning are updating the course evaluation surveys to increase effectiveness and decrease bias. This committee has also been consulting students on AI utility. They expect the academic conduct policies to be updated with appropriate usage of AI.
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council: KALANI reported that the last meeting focused on reducing completion time for Master's in Humanities.
- UVic Advisory Committees: DERRICK reported UVic Learning and Advisory Committee - Discrimination is reviewing the current Discrimination Policy. MADDOX noted that the Equity and Human Rights office was heavily impacted by the budget cuts.

G. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES

LEAD: TANVEER

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 2 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:

Sexualized Violence Advisory Group – Evangeline WAGNER

Search committee – Associate Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts – Sarah ROBERTS

M/S: NASCIMENTO/KALANI

CARRIED

H. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: RESOLVED the Minutes of the February 28, 2023 GRC meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: KALANI/FIELDER

CARRIED

I. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/PAST MEETINGS

LEAD: MADDOX

No reports.

J. EXECUTIVE BOARD STIPEND REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO ACCEPT

LEAD: WAGNER

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 the Executive Board Reports for March 2023 from MADDOX and GAUBE are approved as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Board Reports for March 2023 from SAFARI and BICKLEY are approved upon receipt as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

M/S: STIPEND REVIEW COMMITTEE/KALANI

CARRIED

MOTION: RESOLVED the Executive Board Reports for February 2023 from MADDOX, GAUBE and SAFARI are approved as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Board Report for February 2023 from BICKLEY is approved upon receipt as recommended by the Stipend Review Committee.

M/S: STIPEND REVIEW COMMITTEE/KALANI

CARRIED

MOTION: RESOLVED Wyatt Maddox, former Director of Services, Greg Gaube, Director of Communications receive a \$500.00 top up, Bobby Bickley, Former Director of Finance and Nahid Safari, former Director of Student Affairs receive a \$125.00 top up for exceptional work over the month of March covering Chair's duties.

M/S: STIPEND REVIEW COMMITTEE/KALANI

CARRIED

C. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION

LEAD: MADDOX

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!

MAY 1, 2023, 10:00 IN THE QUAD JOIN THE SUPPORT OUR SCIENCE NATIONAL WALK OUT! Meet in front of the library/fountain.

D. NOTICES OF MOTION FOR NEXT MEETING

LEAD: MADDOX

Please see Appendix D for a GRC Agenda Item template.

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

LEAD: MADDOX

Next GRC Meeting: May 23, 2023

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of May 9, 2023
- Agenda to be posted: May 16, 2023

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.

M/S: FIELDER/GRIFFIN

CARRIED

KT

X

Wyatt Maddox
GSS Chair 2023-24

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

