

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board

### MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

APRIL 26, 2023

**EXECUTIVE INVITED:**

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;  
Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications and Vice Chair (partial);  
Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;  
Mitch NASCIMENTO, Director of Services;  
TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

**GUESTS:** Jim DUNSDON, Associate Vice-President Student Affairs; Hannah BROWN, Work Study student

**REGRETS:** Lindsay BEAL; Director of Student Affairs;

### STANDING ITEMS PART 1

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A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by MADDOX at 10:04 a.m.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by DUNSDON including a reminder of how the lands on which we meet have always been host to teaching and learning.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.*  
*M/S: GAUBE/NASCIMENTO*  
*CARRIED/FAILED*

### NEW BUSINESS

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1. INTRO TO UVIC RELATIONS

Lead: DUNSDON

Reference: Exec to Exec and Operational Relations Terms of Reference

For: Discussion

Questions from the GSS:

Where do we foresee options for joint advocacy in the next year?

Where do you feel we could be achieving more if we collaborated more effectively?

Could Jim please give an overview of the Operational Relations and Exec-to-Exec meetings in terms of structure, typical agenda items, best practices, etc.

DUNSDON provided a brief overview of his role as the primary liaison between the two UVic student societies and the University. As well, he focused on the two primary meetings with UVic and the GSS as a space to strategize and check in on joint campaigns, query each other's organizational plans, and resolve problems.

FIELDER asked after effective ways to engage and DUNSDON clarified that his role is often to refer GSS to the correct personnel at UVic.

For the dorm build, we should have an answer from the Province in early June. UVic is planning to aim for a 1000 bed dorm if a grant is made available, with the option of dropping back down to a 500 bed facility if BC only offers debt capacity. Last time the Province expanded Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) debt capacity, UVic was first in queue (i.e. first in the door). As the Province works on tight timelines, being first in the queue is highly beneficial. Another area of strength is the previous, recent success with opening two new dorms on time improve UVic's position for this proposal.

TURNER asked about whether UVic might be in a worse position due to the recent dorm builds, but DUNSDON clarified that UBC and SFU are working on their own endowment lands, UNBC doesn't have the student population to support expansion and the other PSIs have not been aggressive in their expansion plans. UVic's goal is to build housing for 25% of the student population.

MADDOX asked what other campaigns are in a focus for UVic. These include affordability, student wellness, accessibility, and pedagogical assessment. On the last point, DUNSDON mentioned that now is an exciting time for questioning prior assumptions about academic assessment. Dean of FGS will be working on entry requirements for programs to reduce barriers. For foreign trained professionals, the Province has not made training and upgrading plans available to PSIs yet. An example of policies that may be changing would be the refusal to recognize three year undergraduate degrees for admission to Masters of Engineering degrees.

MADDOX asked after the impacts of the federal worker strike on especially international students. UVic is supporting multiple lobbying efforts, but they expect that there will be an impact on students by early May. Quietly, UVic has heard that in anticipation of the strike that IRCC had been streamlining some processes in the weeks ahead of the strike.

[DUNSDON attended from 10:04-10:29]

## 2. WORK STUDY PRESENTATION

Lead: BROWN

Reference:

For: Discussion

BROWN presented on their research on Canadian dorm contexts. The key concerns included affordability as BC and Ontario students pay 30%+ more for renting than non-student renters, and putting accessible suites on the ground floor. The board wanted to focus on maximizing beds, focus on kitchenettes in suites with a potential for a larger community kitchen per floor. The board was not invested in community gathering spaces like theatre rooms. Grad dorms may be more appropriate for partnered housing instead of full family housing.

**DECISION:** The board identified the need to focus on bachelor suites, no less than a double bed, and reallocate families into existing family-specific housing.

**TASK: TURNER to request demographics and suite distribution information from UVic housing.**

[BROWN attended from 10:15-11:10]

[GAUBE left at 11:10]

## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the April 19, 2023 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented.*

*M/S: NASCIMENTO/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

### E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

No reports.

### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Associate Vice President Academic Programs Meet and Greet invite

*Motion: RESOLVED the correspondence is received.*

*M/S: NASCIMENTO/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

**TASK: MADDOX, BEAL and NASCIMENTO to attend Associate Vice President Academic Programs Meet and Greet. BEAL to invite members from her department.**

### H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: [Meeting Debrief Template](#)

1. Meeting debrief: GRC April 25  
MADDOX reported on the intended BPC meet and plan to change the bylaw on the use of Roberts Rules.
2. "Agenda planning": GSS-Student Affairs Welcome luncheon at the UClub May 3  
Focus to be on relationship building.
3. Agenda planning: Operational Relations May 18 (agenda items likely due May 4)  
Grad dorms – ask for demographics and distribution of suite size from UVic. UVic will have more information on their building plans in June when the Province responds to their funding requests.

### I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

### J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

## CLOSING ITEMS

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### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

No reports.

### NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Notion of agenda item: Director, Student Wellness Centre to meet with board regarding health and wellness services and opportunities for collaboration

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

**\*\*Task Reminder: Please be sure your meetings and events are up to date on the GRC Teams Calendar\*\***

Next Executive Meetings: May 10, 2023

Next GRC Meeting: May 23, 2023

AGM: October 19, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling: TURNER out on vacation May 15-25. BARNEY out on vacation May 29-June 2.

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned at 11:31am.*

*M/S: NASCIMENTO/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

KT

X

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Wyatt MADDUX  
GSS Chair 2023-24

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Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director