

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 31, 2023

Zoom Link: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/2244264481>

EXECUTIVE PRESENT:

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

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

GAUBE called the meeting to order 9:01am.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FIELDER offered a territorial acknowledgement.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: RESOLVED the agenda is approved with the addition of a debrief from the August 30 meeting with Laurel Collins MP and Jagmeet Singh NDP leader.

M/S: FIELDER/BEAL

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. NDP MEETING DEBRIEF

Discussion:

On August 30, Laurel Collins, MP for Victoria (NDP), and Jagmeet Singh, leader of the Federal NDP met with the GSS, with invited guest from other student societies, to discuss housing and the impacts of the housing crisis on students.

Between our UVSS colleagues and the NDP student volunteers present, we had representation from Royal Roads, Camosun and UVic. Singh was primarily looking for stories to exemplify the housing crisis as well as asking for proposed solutions. Stories that were shared focused on:

- the expendable income loss as Tri-Council Funding has stagnated for graduate students, resulting in worsening affordability and living situations for grad students

- inadequate supports for rental rights agencies and appropriate staffing among rental units to ensure that the Residential Tenancy Act's protections for renters stays enforceable and enforced (in particular in relation to black mold, pest infestations, lack of respect for quiet enjoyment rights, etc.)
- limited options to earn a living as an international student, with the accompanying affordability, eviction, and homelessness challenges that follow

Singh had a press briefing outside our building immediately after our meeting. He highlighted:

- the stagnating federal funding for housing
- a proposal for a three way cost sharing model between the feds, provinces, and universities for new student housing (I've passed this along to Jim Dunsdon and he was over the moon)
- a proposal to use federal land to build specifically affordable housing
- a proposal to convert former commercial/office space into residences. Again, this comes with a cost sharing model between the federal and provincial governments and a third party (universities, not-for-profits or co-ops.)
- a fairly firm call-out to how poorly thought through the Liberals floated cap on international students as a fix to the housing crisis really was

There was substantial press coverage thereafter that circulated these messages, as well as interviews with GSS staff and board members. Outlets included Times Colonist, Chek News, Victoria Buzz, etc.

NASCIMENTO raised that we can access Parliamentary Library reports through Alex Kuhn, Constituency Assistant with Collins' office. We can access reports on housing, affordability, and more through Kuhn.

TASKS: At the September 14 board meeting, the Board will determine key issues to highlight and address in a follow up letter to Singh's office.

At the September 14 board meeting, the Board will determine the topic and scope of Parliamentary Library report(s) to request.

At the September 14 board meeting, the Board will determine topics to include in a letter to Selina Robinson, Minister for Post-Secondary Education and Ravi Kahlon, Minister for Housing, and assign drafting duties for this letter.

2. BOARD MEETING RESCHEDULING

Lead: GAUBE

For: Decision

Motion: RESOLVED the following dates and times are scheduled for Executive Board meetings:

Thursday, September 14, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, September 28, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, October 12, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, October 26, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, November 9, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, November 23, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, December 7, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, January 11, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, January 25, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, February 8, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, February 22, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, March 7, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, March 21, 9:30-11:00

Thursday, March 28, 9:30-11:00* Transition meeting with next board

M/S: FIELDER/BEAL

CARRIED

Task: TURNER to update calendars with new board schedule

3. BPC CHANGE TO ROBERTS RULES BYLAW

Lead: MADDOX

For: Decision

Motion: RESOLVED to approve the changes to the Bylaw and Policy Committee's editions to the bylaws to GRC.

M/S: FIELDER/BEAL

CARRIED

4. BOARD RESTRUCTURING VIABILITY CHECK AND PLANNING

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Action items to restructure board, Board restructuring with 5 members, with 6 members, Committee TOR

For: Discussion

TURNER provided an overview of a plan to redistribute board work by eliminating Student Affairs, Communications, and Services and replacing these positions with Internal/University Relations, External Relations, and Student Life. NASCIMENTO and GAUBE asked after work balance, member and external communications. GAUBE is in favour of drafting board job descriptions that focus on collaborative work among board members. BEAL raised the lack of off-campus community engagement under the current board model. FIELDER highlighted the need to record GAUBE's role into new job descriptions if Communications will no longer be a single board member responsibility.

BEAL raised concerns about fostering better staff-board relations. GAUBE noted that work sharing among and between board and staff is vital and has not gone well this semester. TURNER noted forthcoming job description reviews for key unionized staff.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes from the August 16, 2023 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented [OR with minor corrections as provided].

M/S: FIELDER/BEAL

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

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

Items assigned to board members that Kyla thinks are complete or abandoned will be listed below and highlighted in yellow. If there's an item you were assigned below highlighted in yellow, please confirm if the task was completed, revoked, or abandoned!

Tasks Completed/Decisions fully acted upon:

July 5: **TASK: TURNER to draft the September GRC agenda with the two items requested by HICKS.**

Aug 2: **TASK: TURNER to propose a timeline for changing board positions as well as two options for a new board structure.**

Aug 2: **TASK: MADDOX to correspond with SFU and UofC about grad funding and direct them to contact GARO, and suggest they contact the Support our Science campaign.**

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Faculty of Graduate Studies Equity Survey email, FGS survey draft, Wyatt and Kyla comments on survey draft

Postponed until September 14 board meeting.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Cancel September 18 Operational Relations Meeting

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

FIELDER has completed the draft and delivered to Petranella Daviel, Communications Coordinator, to create a more formal "physical" document.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX no report.

Director of Communications: GAUBE noted that orientation materials have been delivered. GAUBE also highlighted September 6 as having three events on that date. GAUBE is seeking a volunteer to lead colouring three times during the term. Board game nights will switch to Tuesday and Saturday nights. Grad Student Appreciation Week will be the week of October 10. There will be big board games on Tuesday, a research fair on Wednesday, a health day on Thursday, and party on Friday.

Director of Finance: FIELDER Dawn Schell will reach out to Turner re: a grad student sharing circle this term.

Director of Services: NASCIMENTO provided an update to BEAL on events opportunities for after September.

Director of Student Affairs: BEAL AGES has great turn out and high interest in GRC. Student Affairs Committee is briefed on the RA union card drive. The Food Sovereignty project will carry forward to the next year.

Executive Director: TURNER noted concerns around board-staff relations. An in depth discussion followed. Thanks from Ky on being so receptive, responsive, and respectful in receiving feedback, team!

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

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: September 14, 2023

Next GRC Meeting: Sept 27, 2023

AGM: October 24, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: BIRT the meeting is adjourned.

M/S:

CARRIED/FAILED

X

Wyatt MADDOX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

