

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Zoom Link: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/83176550983> (ONE TIME ZOOM LINK BECAUSE I HAD PREVIOUSLY BOOKED ORIENTATION IN MY ZOOM ROOM PRE-MEETING RESCHEDULING)

**EXECUTIVE INVITED:**

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;  
Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications and Vice Chair;  
Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;  
Lindsay BEAL, Director of Student Affairs;

**GUESTS:**

**REGRETS:** Mitch NASCIMENTO, Director of Services;  
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

- A. CALL TO ORDER 9:35
- B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 9:35
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 9:40

*Motion: BIRT the agenda is approved as presented.*

*M/S: GAUBE/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. NDP FOLLOW UPS 9:41

Lead:

For: Discussion and Task Assignments

**What issues do we wish to highlight in a follow up letter to Laurel Collins and Jagmeet Singh thanking them for meeting with us (e.g. the need for on-campus housing availability for XYZ% of students, the need to increase Tri-Council funding amounts per grant and grants per year, etc.)**

GAUBE: For Jagmeet, mostly a thank you letter for visiting, and potentially include anecdotal stories.

Highlight that there are no dedicate housing solution for grad students currently.

MADDOX: Tri-Council funding seems to not be a lead from the NDP, and there is more of a focus on the Housing. On the other hand, GAUBE stresses that it may all come down to the fact that the wages have not increases. Maddox stresses that the individual amounts from the Tri-Council need to be increased, with the amount of tri-council grants having to stay consistent, while the bar is set higher for all individuals receiving funding. Only 1% of students are receiving NSERC scholarships, but we need to focus on the other 99% of students who are also receiving funding but are being paid in the same fashion.

Same approach should be taken with Laurel, since she is invested in this funding stream.

**What issues do we wish to highlight in a follow up letter to Selina Robinson, Post-Secondary Education and Ravi Kahlon, Housing in the Provincial government?**

GAUBE: We should aim to push the same NDP plan for federal housing, with the split across Government, Province and University, to enable cheaper housing for students. Drastically increase housing, wherever is available.

MADDOX has been requested a meeting with Selina Robinson.

**What issues and key words do we want to use in submitting a request to Alex Kuhn, Constituency Assistant, for a Parliamentary Library briefing?**

GAUBE: Postponed for next meeting. Ideas would include Graduate Student Housing, History of Federal Housing in BC (aimed towards student support).

**2. CUPE UPDATES AND ORGANIZING MEETING RECAP 9:55**

Lead: FIELDER

Reference: None

For: Discussion

FIELDER: Each card that a GRA signs is valid for 6-months. At the 6-month of the campaign, CUPE will decide whether they will submit their list of names to the Labor Board. If so, we proceed as intended. If not, then we email all card signees, to resign their card, so it may be valid for an additional 6 months.

Once the Labor Board receives a list of names from CUPE, they will ask the University for their list of names, under the heading of the cards being signed "Graduate Research Assistants". They will have a small amount of time (5 days I believe), to gather the list of students under the GRA header, and submit it to the Labor Board. If the Labor Board determines that between 45% and 55% of the population has their cards signed, then the Labor Board will ask for a formal vote. The voting takes place on a single day, where 50% +1 votes to unionize are needed to allow that to go through.

NOTE: It is 50% +1 of the *voting population* that determines the Unionization. There has been no precedent set on to how many individuals are needed (a person count), for the vote to pass (even under the above rules), but the labor law says that it must be a representative amount of the population wishing to unionize. There has not been an issue raised in the past on this, however, this may be brought up.

If 55%+ of the population has signed their cards, then we would qualify to immediately unionize. However\*\*, UBC has underwent this process recently, and even though the student population was above 55%, the Labor Board still asked the Union to conduct a vote, with their population.

Once this process is complete, the Labor Board undergoes any formal contestation to the members. In the case of UBC, this is currently ongoing, where the case management is in charge of determining who is covered by "Graduate Research Assistants".

GAUBE: Would like to have the office staff trained on the CUPE orientation for Organizing, so that they may answer questions for those who come to the office for that topic.

<https://organizeuvc.cupe.ca/>

**3. FGS EQUITY SURVEY 10:25**

Lead: MADDIX

Reference: FGS survey draft, Wyatt and Kyla comments on survey draft

For: Discussion

GAUBE to make sure we show our comments in a positive light, because this cause is a great push, and we don't want to antagonize.

**4. BOARD RESTRUCTURING DECISION MAKING 10:26**

Lead: TURNER

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

For: Decision

*Motion: BIRT the Executive Board recommends restructuring the Executive Board positions to the Stipend Review Committee and GRC to include the positions listed below:*

*Chair*

*Director of University/Internal Relations (Vice Chair)*

*Director of External Relations*

*Director of Finance*

*Director of Student Life*

*BIFRT that the Executive Board commits to drafting comprehensive job descriptions for all board positions.*

*BIFRT that the Executive Board commits to investigating adding resources to support the Student Life position.*

*BIFRT that the Executive Board recommends changing relevant bylaws to the Bylaw and Policy Committee to facilitate this transition for the 2024-25 Executive Board election.*

*M/S: MADDOX/GAUBE*

*CARRIED*

GAUBE: Would want more support for the Director of Student Life position. Amended the motion to reflect this specific point. Allows to flexibility, while a formal decision at this meeting is required due to the timeline.

BEAL/GAUBE: Interconnectivity between Internal and External position is key, as the transition from the Student Affairs, and Communication to this new system of position is quite a change. Having the "comprehensive job descriptions" is a necessity to ensure that Board positions are structured in a way that gives guidance to individuals stepping into the role, but also allowing for flexibility in year-to-year focuses.

## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 10:50

*Motion: BIRT the minutes from the August 31, 2023 Executive Board Meeting are approved as presented [OR with minor corrections as provided].*

*M/S: GAUBE/BEAL*

*CARRIED*

### E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (APPENDIX B) 10:53

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:**

**Tasks revoked or abandoned:**

### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (APPENDIX C) 11:55

**Reminder to Kyla:** Include full name and titles for Governance Coordinator in Committee Appointments.

*Motion: BIR to elect the following members to the following committees:*

*Committee:* **Graduate Student Mentorship and Supervision Award**

*Member:*

*M/S:*

*CARRIED/FAILED*

*BOARD decides to push this to GRC Members.*

### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D) 10:55

Item 1: Meeting Request for Selina Robinson, with Maddox

*Motion: BIRT the correspondence is received.*

*M/S: FIELDER/GAUBE*

*CARRIED*

### H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF 11:10

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. TBD
- I. LOBBYING REPORTS 11:20  
Reports due at the first meeting of every month.
- J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN 11:20  
FIELDER to provide update over email next week.

CLOSING ITEMS 10:55

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDUX

Director of Communications: GAUBE

Director of Finance: FIELDER

Director of Services: NASCIMENTO

Director of Student Affairs: BEAL

Executive Director: TURNER

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 28, 2023

Next GRC Meeting: Sept 26, 2023

AGM: October 24, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: BIRT the meeting is adjourned.*

*M/S: MADDUX / FIELDER*

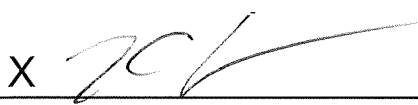
*CARRIED*

X



Wyatt MADDUX  
GSS Chair 2023-24

X



Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director