

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
Graduate Representative Council

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, 5-7 PM

Executive Board Present (1 vote per member):

Chair: Wyatt Maddox

Vice Chair/Director of Communications: Greg Gaube

Director of Student Affairs: Lindsay Beal

Executive Director (non-voting): Kyla Turner

Elected Academic Unit Reps Present (1 vote per academic unit):

Anthropology:	Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies:	Law: Katarina Sawchuk	Public Health and Social Policy:
Art History: Sarah Roberts & Jessica Ziakin Cook	Electrical and Computer Engineering:	Linguistics: Rosemary Webb	Social Dimensions of Health:
Biochemistry and Microbiology: Sushant Suresh	Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton & Diana Bertuol Garcia	Mathematics and Statistics:	Social Work:
Biology: Maggie Lawton & Dominique Maucieri	Exercise Science, Phys. & Health Ed:	Mechanical Engineering: Maziyar Khadivi & Diogo Bravo	Sociology: Iman Fadaei & Jasmine Padam
Business:	French:	Music:	Social Work:
Chemistry: Nick Roberts & Harvey MacKenzie	Geography:	Neuroscience:	Theatre:
Child and Youth Care:	Germanic and Slavic Studies:	Nursing:	Visual Arts:
Civil Engineering: Sanaz Ajabshir & Monika Mikhail	Greek and Roman Studies: Ben Watts-Wooldridge	Pacific and Asian Studies: Delaney Johnson & Ivan Garcimartin Carmona	Writing:
Curriculum and Instruction: Nabila Kazmi & Aleksandra Waliszewska	Health Information Science: Haopeng Ren	Philosophy:	CUPE:
Earth and Ocean Science: Katie Jamson & Stacey Edmonson	History:	Physics and Astronomy:	Other Programs:
Economics:	Indigenous Education:	Psychology: Cian Dabrowski & Tara Cooper	Interdisciplinary Studies:
Public Administration:			

Recorder: Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator

Invited Guests: Robin Hicks, Faculty of Graduate Studies Dean

Regrets Received: Director of Services: Mitch Nascimento, Director of Finance: Samuel Fielder, Electoral officer: Lauren Burton, Delaney Johnson, Ivan Garcimartin Carmona, Jasmine Padam

Absent without regrets:

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Maddox called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5:01 PM

Councillors are asked to take a turn to provide a personal, meaningful statement of land acknowledgement.

Today's personal land acknowledgement will be provided by SARAH ROBERTS.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA 5:05

MOTION: RESOLVED the agenda is approved as presented.

M/S: Executive Board/ROBERTS

CARRIED

TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER 5:10

Today's timekeeper was MAGGIE LAWTON.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE 5:12

GSS Membership: As of September 20, 2023, the GSS has 3156 members.

Meeting Quorum: With 6 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 11.

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

Welcome to new GRC reps: Everyone!

REPORTS AND OPEN DIALOGUE

A. CHAIR'S REMARKS 5:13

MADDOX provided the following update on the work of the Executive Board.

Elected in March 2023 and was director of events before being the chair of the GSS.

MADDOX discussed about overall GRC.

A. GRC COMMITTEE, ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS, UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS 5:18

- Appeals: (FIELDER sent regrets) TURNER noted that Appeals met and reviewed all submitted Appeals in August. No September meetings need to occur. TURNER mentioned that appeals committee reports on the previous month of work. Further the committee have assessed the work in august.
- Bylaw & Policy: MADDOX noted that BPC has approved an amendment to our Bylaws around our membership definition and removing the requirement to run GRC and AGMs by Roberts Rules of Order. MADDOX mentioned that by-law committee worked hard to remove the Roberts rules from last year work which will get approved at the AGM 2023.
- Communications: GAUBE reported that Communications Committee drafted and assisted in production for the handbook/day planner, GSS services pamphlets, bookmarks and buttons

which were distributed through orientations. Please pick up your FREE handbook at the front office! GAUBE discussed overall purpose of the communication committee and its importance to the GSS. GAUBE mentioned that GSS was not well known after the Covid-19 and his work will potentially focus on branding the GSS on campus.

- **Events:** (NASCIMENTO sent regrets) GAUBE reported on September events including ice cream social and craft night (6th) three health and dental orientations (6th, 14th, and 20th), Trivia Night with Fierce Brosnan (8th), Welcome Back BBQ (13th), Drag Night (15th), Pancake Breakfast (20th), and weekly craft nights on Wednesdays and board games on Tuesdays. GAUBE also reported on planned October events including board games continuing every Tuesday, Crafty Wednesdays (4th, 11th, Nov 1st), a Zoom Show and Tell (6th), Galey Farms Pumpkin Fest (21st), Grad Student Appreciation Week (Oct 24-27), Werewolf (online and in person 31st)
- **Finance:** (FIELDER sent regrets) TURNER reported that the audit is forthcoming, and Finance Committee did not meet in August. TURNER mentioned the importance of finance committee and its to review audit and drafting the budget which will be approved in the SAMG in the March of 2024.
- **Student Affairs:** BEAL reported about the importance of student affairs and its purpose to represent all the graduate students on campus and research and advocate on behalf of the graduate students. BEAL discussed about food sovereignty, and food funding and graduate student housing.
- **Stipend Review:** no report. TURNER provided an overview of SRC's work.
- **Electoral Officer:** (BURTON sent regrets) TURNER noted our next electoral activity will occur TONIGHT! In this meeting we are electing an Interim Director of Services for October.

B. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS 5:28

MOTION: RESOLVED the 2023-24 GRC reps are appointed to the GRC Standing Committees as follows:

Appeals: Sanaz Ajabshir

Bylaw and Policy: Diana Bertuol Garcia, Katarina Sawchuk, Nicholas Roberts

Communications: Sarah Roberts

Events: Ivan Garcimartin Carmona, Katie Jamson, Delaney Johnson, Stacey Edmonson, Maggie Lawton

Finance: Dominique Maucieri, Sushant Suresh, Diogo Bravo, Maziyar Khadivi,

Student Affairs: Tara Cooper, Nabila Kazmi, Harvey Mackenzie

Stipend Review: Ben Watts-Wooldridge, Monika Mikhail and Rosemarry Webb

M/S: WALTON/MACKENZIE

CARRIED

C. OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS 5:35

LEAD: MADDUX AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

GRC reps introduce themselves! Welcome, all!

MADDUX proposed the new GRC members to introduce them and MADDUX started off first.

Stacy introduced herself and mentioned she is a PHD student in the earth and ocean studies.

ROBERTS mentioned she is in History program and her focus on the film history of the Latin American in the 1950s

SAWCHUK mentioned she is doing master in law and her research is about justice and incorporating indigenous tradition into the law institution,

BEAL introduced the way she got acclaimed in last March and her study is education.

BRAVO mentioned he is from Portugal and is in mechanical engineering.

Nabila is 4th PHD from the faculty of education and she has managed to form a community within her department.

FADAEI mentioned that is from sociology department in 3rd year of PHD and wants to be active part in the community.

SURESH is from 3rd year of biology department, and he is joining GRC to increase his social circle.

COOPER mentioned she is 2nd year of her PHD. She mentioned that she would like to join GRC from someone's advice.

WATTS-WOOLDRIDGE mentioned that he was passed along from the last GRC rep.

MIKHAIL wanted to know UVic community better and that's why she joined GRC

LAWTON is 3rd year in biology PHD

MACKENZIE's main reason to join GRC was about the discussion about his department and having forum to communicate.

GRACIA 3rd year of PHD in environmental studies.

KHADIVI Rep from last

MADDOX wrapped up.

BREAK – 5 MINUTES –5:45 PM

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. WELCOME TO GRC! 5:50

Lead: MADDOX

Reference:

For: Discussion

MADDOX provided a brief overview of the work of GRC, the vital role our representatives play in keeping the GSS working for our memberships and welcomed everyone to a new term.

TURNER asked after providing separate GRC member training as the election of an Interim D. Services ate through the time we'd otherwise spend on training. GRC members chose to conduct training at Wednesday coffee in October.

2. WELCOME TO GRADUATE STUDIES FROM HICKS! 5:55

Lead: HICKS

Reference:

For: Discussion

HICKS welcomes all our new reps to UVic and discussed the ways in which student leadership shapes our campus and drives advocacy both on- and off-campus. HICKS provided a chart of the graduate students, and the faculties are arranged by the institution. Further HICKS said faculty of graduate studies work on cultivating and proposing policies. HICKS said about admission is the record keeping of the graduate student's time in school.

Currently HICKS is working on career preparation: motivated by couple thing from federal and provincial government is under funding. HICKS said why the federal government wants to invest into graduate students. HICKS and his office are preparing for finding solutions and asking departments to put some efforts in students their department when they graduate. 1. Professional development or co-curricular 2. professional training.

HICKS discussed FGS has taken actions to acquire this type of training module should be involved for student learning. HICKS mentioned that FGS is supporting supervisor and emphasis on experiential learning

HICKS on equity review which is campus wide and number of action items and one of them is review/update of UVic graduate supervision policy.

3. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH FUNDING WITH HICKS 6:05

Lead: HICKS

Reference:

For: Discussion

HICKS mentioned the source of funding and emphasises the magnitude of problem is huge. HE mentioned the money from institution spending of funding graph in his ppt. Majority of which is for RA, TA and federal award and FGS.

HICKS said funding issue will take some time and external advocacy is crucial for raising this concern. House of commons have a committee which has been working on the student funding said by HICKS.

Further HICKS said his work is to make sure the funding must be transparent and have the capacity to parameterized and shared with graduate students. FGS cannot individually interfere in the departmental funding policies.

Iman's question was about budget cuts and students have been in difficult position with work and living cost in Victoria. Iman asked from HICKS opinions what type of efforts or actions would be effective in raising this concern? HICKS answer was on national level like national award funding over the past years have stagnate and 4% of only graduate students get these awards and federal governments action must in funding towards research grants because that's majority of money coming from. HICKS further said he and his colleagues are working on the advocacy but stuck in the loop and no effective plan of action is taken. His last point was that if students want funding, they must show how they can use this money and yield results.

GAUBE questions about HICKS movement or what has he done so far? HICKS mentioned that he has not made any progress and said this is game of advocacy.

ROBERTS asked how big the part of funding is coming from Research assistantship and these research assistantships are less transparent and most of the time these jobs are like under the table. HICKS said TA

are unionized and there is a proper framework in place but in the case of RA a lot of these funds are stipends and grants. HICKS said that he found the holes are loops in the policy where supervisor can withhold funds such practices are under review within the UVic supervision policy. HICKS said we do not want students coming with misunderstandings.

GAUBE said that Harvey is taking on the role within stem fundings for RA. And getting more transparency how the students are funded.

4. JOINT FGS-GSS EVENTS COMING UP: GRAD STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK 6:20

Lead: GAUBE

Reference:

For: Discussion

GAUBE provided a brief overview of the planned FGS-GSS Grad Student Appreciation Week which will include Big Board Games (24th), the Inaugural Excellence in Graduate Research Symposium (25th), Supervisor Relationships Panel Discussion (25th), Faculty Tasting Night (25th), Health Day (26th) and a end-of-week FGS Party (27th).

5. BOARD ANNUAL PLAN 6:25

Lead: MADDUX

Reference:

For: Discussion

MADDUX provided an overview of the Board's Annual Plan which focuses on:

- 1 Engagement and Connectivity
- 2 Graduate Hub Space
- 3 The Grad House
- 4 Advocacy
- 5 Student Support and Services

6. INTERIM DIRECTOR OF SERVICES ELECTION 6:30

Lead: BURTON, Electoral Officer (TURNER to cover duties due to regrets)

Reference: GSS Bylaw XI and Executive Board Vacancy Appointment Policy

For: Decision

Mitch Nascimento, Director of Services, is on an approved leave of absence from the board until the end of October (or later if requested). As per the GSS bylaws and policies, we are seeking to elect an interim Director of Services for the duration of Nascimento's leave.

Lauren Burton, Electoral Officer, will oversee three calls for nominations for this position (the first being the email GRC reps received on September 20). Then, Burton will provide each candidate with one minute to present their nomination to the members, followed by a vote to elect our Interim Director of Services.

Resolved to elect the following candidate to the Interim Director of Services position until the end of Mitch Nascimento's leave of absence:

Candidate #1 – Meggie Lawton

Candidate #2- N/A

Candidate #3-N/A

With acclamation of 10 votes cast, BURTON declares Lawton as the Interim Director of Services.

STANDING ITEMS 6:40 PM

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 6:40

MOTION: RESOLVED the Minutes of the July 25, 2023, GRC meeting are approved as presented.

M/S: ROBERTS/MACKENZIE

CARRIED

E. EXECUTIVE BOARD STIPEND REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO ACCEPT – 6:42

LEAD: WAGNER

REF DOCS: Executive Board Reports Folder

Councillors are required to read the Executive Board reports prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Resolved to approve the July, august and September board reports in November GRC

B. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES 6:45

LEAD: MADDOX

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

- Board of Governors:
- Senate:
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council:
- UVic Advisory Committees:
- UVic Award Committees:
- UVic Search and Hiring Committees:
- UVic Faculty Committees:

Note: Reps are encouraged to submit short written reports to gssgov@uvic.ca for inclusion in the minutes.

F. GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES – VACANCIES (APPENDIX B) 6:45

LEAD: TANVEER

Grad Councillors are asked to sit on at least one UVic Committee to ensure graduate student interests are represented. There are currently 12 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:

Committee: Awards and Recognition Committee
Member: none

Committee: Committee on Equity and Diversity
Member: none

Committee: Dean's Advisory Forum on Indigenization
Member: none

Committee: Graduate Curriculum Committee
Member: SARAH ROBERTS

Committee: Faculty of Science EDI Council
Member: SUSHANT SURESH

Committee: Appointment Committee Vice-President Research and Innovation
Member: IMAN FADAEI

Committee: Convocation Committee
Member: none

Committee: Graduate Student Mentorship and Supervision Award
Member: DIANA BERTUOL GARCIA

Committee: Harry Hickman Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and Educational Leadership
Member: SARAH ROBERTS

Committee: Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching
Member: none

Committee: Award for Inclusive and Innovative Course Design
Member: none

Committee: Nəcəmaat kʷəns čə?i ʔaʔ šqʷeləqʷən | ČĀNEUEL OL ÍY, ŠKÁLEŽEN | Work together with a good heart and mind (Award for Decolonization and Anti-Indigenous Racism)
Member: none

M/S: MEGGIE/KATARINA
CARRIED

C. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION 6:55

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!

ROBERTS said the march taking place talking about anti-trans and gender protest and her question is if there would be counter protesters on campus. MADDUX answered said that there are very few counter protesters compared to protesters.

GAUBE mentioned about opportunity to volunteer and further mentioned about CUPE 4163 about unionization about RA is currently happening and join and sign-up for it.

D. NOTICES OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

LEAD: MADDUX

E. IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

LEAD: MADDUX

Next Meeting: GSS Annual General Meeting! October 24, 2023

- Agenda to be posted: October 12, 2023

Next GRC Meeting: November 28, 2023

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of November 14, 2023
- Agenda to be posted: November 21, 2023

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: The GSS will be closed Monday, October 2 along with the University in lieu of September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Additionally, we will be closed Monday, October 9 for Thanksgiving.

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: RESOLVED the meeting is adjourned.

M/S: ROBERTS/LAWTON

CARRIED

X

Wyatt MADDUX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X

Kyla TURNER
GSS Executive Director

