

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board
(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

NOV 23, 2023

EXECUTIVE Present:

Wyatt MADDUX, Chair;
Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications and Vice Chair;
Maggie Lawton; Interim Director of Services;
Lindsay BEAL; Director of Student Affairs;
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

REGRETS: Mitch NASCIMENTO, Director of Services; Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:32 by MADDUX

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by MADDUX.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: LAWTON/BEAL

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. CAGS UPDATES – SAGE (SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL GRAD EXCELLENCE) AND ROCK THE BOAT:
RE-IMAGINING GRAD SUPERVISIONS 9:35

Lead: BEAL

For: Discussion

BEAL reported on the SAGE project which started in New Zealand to address the mismatch in cultures between Indigenous ways of knowing and being and academia. The SAGE project aims to bolster the cultural connections between Indigenous grad students and the campus community. UBC has a SAGE pod. UVic had one that may or may not be active. BEAL was looking for opportunities for connections with the SAGE project.

TURNER noted that the Indigenous Governance program has just started up several new programs, including a PhD and a graduate certificate that they are asking for our assistance in promoting. This would be a good connection between SAGE and UVic. GAUBE asked after the leaders and organizers of SAGE. BEAL

recommended reaching out to the VP-Indigenous. MADDOX reported that UVic will be starting an Indigenous Nursing program as well.

TASK: GAUBE to reach out to the VP-Indigenous to assess if there is an active SAGE pod on campus and to bring together the Indigenous Governance Program, Indigenous Nursing Program, and SAGE into GSS spaces for meetings, advertising, etc.

Rock the Boat is a workshop model for roleplaying supervisory relationships. At the CAGS conference, the faculty were blown away by the efficacy of live action theatre in bringing about understanding, empathy and change. BEAL recommends bringing Rock the Boat to the Education department to address the pedagogy of supervision to train co-facilitators in running the Rock the Boat program. Workshops can be conducted student-only or mixed faculty and students. LAWTON noted that this program may not be as taken-up in the sciences where students are selecting a supervisor based solely on research topic and not supervision style. GAUBE asked if Rock the Boat needs to be run by the University (as faculty are less likely to attend if it is GSS organized). BEAL suggested that Education – Curriculum and Instruction could use a GSS department grant to bring in Rock the Boat to get co-facilitators trained on campus and as a pilot project. MADDOX recommended bringing this program into the review process for the UVic Graduate Supervision Policy. GAUBE noted that FGS may be more receptive if we bring in an external facilitator.

TASK: MADDOX to reach out to FGS Dean about bringing in the Rock the Boat program into the Graduate Supervision Policy review process.

TASK: BEAL to look into cost of external facilitators for the Rock the Boat program for FGS.

TASK: BEAL to reach out the Education GRC reps regarding applying for a GSS Department Grant to bring in the Rock the Boat program to their program.

BEAL also noted that there was a lot of discussion of mandatory training/accreditation for supervision. MADDOX noted that pedagogical training in supervision would be really valuable for the Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (LATHE) program.

BEAL also noted the Network Enhance Academic R(??) program or NEAR to develop a catalogue of supervisors who can mentor of specific skills or aspects of graduate work without supervising an entire project. However, BEAL noted that this project felt highly fragmented and did not treat the student as a whole person.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the Nov 9, 2023 Executive Board Meeting with minor corrections provided.

M/S: LAWTON/GAUBE

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

No tasks reported on.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Organize UVic update (Appendix D and attachment)

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: GAUBE/LAWTON

Discussion:

GAUBE noted concerns about the CUPE4163 timelines as this project was supposed to be launched in September. TURNER noted that this union card drive is the third attempt for the GSS/CUPE4163 to unionize the RAs. GAUBE suggested a meeting with CUPE4163 to get more information about their current progress. GAUBE has contacts within CUPEBC who might be able to provide further insight.

TASK: GAUBE to invite CUPE4163 to the December 7 board meeting.

CARRIED

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Dec 12 GRC – agenda planning
 - i. Agenda items added: Grad Supervision Policy Review and Teams Functionality 101

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDUX reported his one-on-one with FGS Dean about MITACS. There are two issues with MITACS funding administration: the withholding of other funding sources by the supervisor when a student received MITACS funding (this is against policy and will be addressed on the FGS MITACS info website) and that student are receiving two allotments instead of three for payments, resulting in a 1/3 financial loss for UVic students. For the latter, Robin Hicks (FGS Dean) is investigating whether the issue is arising from UVic or MITACS. MADDUX recommends impacted students make official reports to FGS regarding their funding distribution.

MADDUX also requested that BEAL attend the FGS Executive Council in his stead in December.

Director of Communications: GAUBE is working on producing more swag, including buttons, brochures, etc. as well as looking into additional swag items.

Director of Finance: FIELDER no report.

Director of Services: LAWTON the End of Term party is coming up in a week. LAWTON reported that after a thorough discussion with FIELDER, Petri and herself there was no need for additional funding in Events at this time.

Director of Student Affairs: BEAL spoke with a law professor who is going to work on a lactation friendlier campus policy development as a class assignment that we can piggy-back on.

BEAL asked for appropriate avenues to advertise research projects looking for participants.

Executive Director: TURNER noted Irfy is still awaiting a second surgery and may be out of the office for an extended period of time. TURNER also reported that President Hall has raised new avenues for improving the availability of care providers at the Student Wellness Centre. She's been in touch with Jim Dunsdon to get the correct language for a revised advocacy letter to the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

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: Dec 7, 2023

Next GRC Meeting: Nov 28, 2023

AGM: March 19, 2024

Office, Staff Scheduling: GSS front office will be closing Dec 18-Jan 1 inclusive for Winter Break. The Grad House will be closing Dec 25-Jan 5 inclusive. This difference results from a very late Winter Break this year, which will drive down front office work in late December, and the late re-start of classes, which will drive down restaurant sales in early January. The office staff will be preparing for start-of-term service provision and events in the first week of January before classes resume.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 10:56.

M/S: BEAL/LAWTON

CARRIED

X

Wyatt MADDUX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director