

*University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society*

**Executive Board**  
**(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES**

DECEMBER 7, 2023

**EXECUTIVE PRESENT:**

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

**GUEST:** Greg Melnechuk and Melissa Pritchard from CUPE 4163

**STANDING ITEMS PART 1**

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A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:34am.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by NASCIMENTO.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*  
*M/S: NASCIMENTO/FIELDER*  
*CARRIED*

**NEW BUSINESS**

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1. GSAW – WHEN TO HOST IN 2024?

Lead: GAUBE

For: Discussion

TURNER recommends planning over the summer and hosting in October as she can assign planning assistance as a summer staff project. NASCIMENTO agreed. GAUBE recommends making GSAW planning one board member responsibility. FIELDER and BEAL noted that there was interest in turning this into a twice annual event also hosting in February. We would need to see further involvement from our campus partners and stable planning before we double the workload.

2. ROCK THE BOAT UPDATES

Lead: BEAL

For: Discussion

BEAL provided a brief recap of Rock the Boat for NASCIMENTO. BEAL reported that Monica Prendergast, a theatre and education professor, is interested in running the programming at UVic and will write a letter to FGS in support of running the program on campus on our behalf. The Dean of Education is also supportive of having Rock the Boat on campus. BEAL recommends hosting in Spring (perhaps alongside the SAGM?) and/or as part of Grad Student Appreciation Week (GSAW).

MADDOX reported that he has requested that Rock the Boat be part of the FGS Grad Supervision Policy review process. The response so far has been a little lukewarm.

### 3. CAGS RECAP: INDIGENIZING UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE: KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Lead: BEAL

For: Discussion

BEAL discussed the differences in application process in New Zealand (rolling admissions, no personal statements) and supports for grad students including standardize scholarships for Indigenous students.

BEAL also reported on the knowledge mobilization programs. [report cut short by CUPE's arrival]

### 4. CUPE 4163 UPDATES

Lead: MELNECHUK and PRITCHARD

For: Discussion

PRITCHARD noted that the current plan is to go public is for January but noted that this can and does shift depending on capacity within the local and CUPE national's instruction. MELNECHUK felt happy with the member organizers (MO) on the team now and that the MOs have worked through a few blockages within the last month. Jessica from CUPE national is now less involved in planning but CUPE national is still providing further funding. The MOs are going into departments and garnering interest from potential signers through a rolling snack cart and swag distribution. PRITCHARD noted that she expects the work to go in fits and starts as momentum goes through different departments. PRITCHARD noted that expanding the MO team means more skills and tools coming to the table.

UBC had final arguments in front of the labour board on their union drive last week. MELNECHUK felt the UBC's legal position was not particularly strong. The decision for UBC is expected to come in a few months, when we are likely to be quite active in our own union drive.

SFU just made guaranteed PhD funding of \$28,000/year, no clawing back grant funding, etc. MADDOX reported that FGS Dean Hicks is interested in tuition offset programs for RAs as SFU has recently agreed to this. PRITCHARD and MELNECHUK provided updates on the aims for bargaining.

PRITCHARD noted that there is a very strong steward council this year, with 20 trained stewards. PRITCHARD requested assistance in recruiting stewards in the departments that are not currently stewarded.

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## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the Nov 23, 2023 Executive Meeting as presented.*  
*M/S: FIELDER/BEAL*

*CARRIED*

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

**Tasks Completed/Decisions fully acted upon:**

Oct 27 - DECISION: The Board will meet December 7 at 1pm to review job descriptions.

Nov 23 - TASK: GAUBE to invite CUPE4163 to the December 7 board meeting.

**Tasks revoked or abandoned:**

Aug 31 - 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.

Aug 31 - At the September 14 board meeting, the Board will determine the topic and scope of Parliamentary Library report(s) to request.

Aug 31 - 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.

**REVISED TASK: TURNER to add the GSS as an official signatory on the National Housing Accord.**

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

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

*Committee: FGS Grad Supervision Policy Review*

*Member: MADDIX*

*Committee: Appointment Committee for Director of the Astronomy Research Centre*

*Member: FIELDER*

*M/S: NASICMENTO/GAUBE*

*CARRIED*

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No correspondence received.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

1. Nov 23 Exec to Exec - debrief

2. Nov 28 GRC – debrief

There is support for bringing in Jim Dunsdon to future GRC meetings.

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

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CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDUX leaves Saturday evening and will miss the holiday party. Also huge WELCOME BACK to Mitch! We are so happy to have you around again.

Director of Communications: GAUBE is working on costing for a new student package including a tote bag, the handbook, GSS brochures, and other GSS items. TURNER noted that Petri has put together a new student welcome/checklist for the website. Comms Comm is also looking at posting Humans of the GSS on our Instagram. FIELDER asked about our Insta post history and noted that having more variety than events would be helpful.

Director of Finance: FIELDER Finance Committee has prepped the budget consultation for the board and staff. For Appeals, FIELDER noted recommendations for improving communications for the Health and Dental insurance plans for Indigenous students.

Director of Services: NASCIMENTO asked whether we are still eligible for an Alumni grant for Winter Pride. NASCIMENTO was also welcomed back after his LOA and offered his sincere thanks to the rest of the board and Maggie for all their work in covering the position for the last four months.

Director of Student Affairs: BEAL Student Affairs has two working groups right now on lactation friendlier campus and climate action. BEAL recommended advertising Wednesday Coffee at the Office of Student Life student welcome on January 10. BEAL and MADDUX will attend the OSL event while FIELDER, GAUBE, NASCIMENTO to host Crafty Highlight Night.

Executive Director: TURNER no report.

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: Jan 11, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: Dec 12, 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 18-Jan 5 inclusive.

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 11:11am.*

*M/S: NASCIMENTO/GAUBE*

*CARRIED*

X

Wyatt MADDUX  
GSS Chair 2023-24

X

Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director