

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Graduate Representative Council

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2023, 5-7 PM

Executive Board Invited (1 vote per member):**Vice Chair/Director of Communications:** Greg Gaube**Director of Finance:** Samuel Fielder**Director of Services:** Mitch Nascimento**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:	Electrical and Computer Engineering: Jitendra Palaparty	Linguistics: Rosemary Webb	Social Dimensions of Health:
Biochemistry and Microbiology:	Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton & Diana Bertuol Garcia	Mathematics and Statistics:	Social Work:
Biology: Maggie Lawton	Exercise Science, Phys. & Health Ed:	Mechanical Engineering:	Sociology: Jasmine Padam
Business:	French:	Music:	Social Work:
Chemistry: Nick Roberts	Geography:	Neuroscience:	Theatre:
Child and Youth Care:	Germanic and Slavic Studies:	Nursing:	Visual Arts:
Civil Engineering:	Greek and Roman Studies:	Pacific and Asian Studies: Delaney Johnson & Ivan Garcimartin Carmona	Writing: Petranella Daviel
Curriculum and Instruction: Nabila Kazmi	Health Information Science:	Philosophy:	CUPE:
Earth and Ocean Science:	History:	Physics and Astronomy: Jonathan Qualter	Other Programs:
Economics:	Indigenous Education:	Psychology:	Interdisciplinary Studies:

Recorder: Kyla Turner**Invited Guests:** Robin Hicks, Dean of FGS, Karen Munro, and Courtney Lundrigan, Engagement and Learning UVic Libraries**Regrets Received:** **Chair:** Wyatt Maddox; Director of Services: Mitch Nascimento; Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator; Tara Cooper; Sarah Roberts; Rachel Hooton; Harvey Mackenzie**Absent without regrets:** Jessica Ziakin Cook; Sushant Suresh; Dominique Maucieri; Sanaz Ajabshir; Monika Mikhail; Aleksandra Waliszewska; Katie Jamson; Stacey Edmondson; Ben Watts-Wooldridge;

Haopeng Ren; Abigail Romano; Maziyar Khadivi; Diogo Bravo; Olivia Charette; Jade Fischer; Cian Dabrowski; Iman Fadaei

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by GAUBE.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 DAVIEL.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: Executive Board/LAWTON

CARRIED

TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER

Today's timekeeper was: FIELDER.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE

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

Meeting Quorum: With 5 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! Jitendra Palaparty and Petranella Daviel!

REPORTS AND OPEN DIALOGUE

A. CHAIR'S REMARKS

GAUBE will update GRC on the goings on of the Executive Board, in particular the recent creation of a Board Job

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

- Appeals: FIELDER reported Appeals has met and completed their work.
- Bylaw & Policy: MADDIX no report.
- Communications: GAUBE reported that Comms Comm is working on developing GSS branded swag, including tote bags.
- Events: LAWTON filling in one last time for NASCIMENTO, reported on the end of term party which was well attended and the samosas were very well received. DAVIEL reported on January events.
- Finance: FIELDER reported the Finance Committee has booked financial consultations with the board and staff on the 2024-25 budget.
- Student Affairs: BEAL Student Affairs will meet this week on the lactation friendlier campus and environmental campaigns.

- Stipend Review: FISCHER – WEBB reported on the motions in this agenda.
- Electoral Officer: BURTON no report.

B. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS

No committee changes to note.

C. OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS

LEAD: GAUBE

TURNER provided an update on the board restructuring plans and when GRC should expect to receive a full copy of the new Board Job Description policy and new committee terms of reference.

BREAK – 5 MINUTES

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. UNITED WAY CAMPAIGNS

Lead: HICKS

Reference:

For: Discussion

HICKS provided an overview of the work of the United Way and his role as the co-chair for the United Way Campaigns on campus. In Victoria, the Southern Vancouver Island United Way branch has been active since 1937 and supports about 1 in 6 people residing in our region. United Ways campaigns include foci on mental health and addictions, elder services/connections, food security, etc. HICKS noted that UVic can set up payroll deductions to United Way, but as many grad students don't have excess funds, he recommends volunteering with the United Way or partner programs through CoolAid, Burnside Gorge Community Association, etc. Finally, there are fundraising events, such as the Artisan Market in the SUB, trivia nights at the Grad House, and a forthcoming plasma car race.

BEAL asked if the payroll deductions could be a percentage. HICKS wasn't sure but payroll would know.

2. GRADUATE SUPERVISION POLICY REVIEW PROCESS

Lead: TURNER/HICKS

Reference:

For: Discussion

HICKS provided an overview of the Graduate Supervision Policy and the need for a review after six years without editing. Wyatt MADDOX, GSS Chair, is our member on the working group and 1/8th of the working group.

3. LIBRARY SERVICES CONSULTATION

Lead: MUNRO and LUNDRIGAN

Reference:

For: Discussion

MUNRO and provided an overview of the libraries current plans for consultations across campus on how folks are using the library and how they wish they could use the library.

GAUBE noted that some common Chemistry journals are not always available. LAWTON asked for Zutero workshops, which the libraries currently offer. SAWCHUK felt that the Law access to journals is very strong and the separate space insulated Law students from some of the access concerns in the main library. GAUBE and BEAL praised the disciplinary specific research specialists at the library.

WEBB, TURNER and PALAPARTY noted the need for dedicated graduate student workspace with good lighting, lockable doors, etc. PALAPARTY recommended having access limits on the tech booths to specific populations (grad students, CAL register students, etc.) if the tech booths are available.

BURTON noted a friend recently went through the thesis boot camp and it was very helpful. BURTON suggested expanding the bootcamp programs around proposal writing, comprehensive exams, etc. MUNRO noted that it is now called the Thesis Writing Intensive and provided an overview of that program, including the plans for creating a cohort model to take students through more materials. GAUBE raised capacity questions about the program as there is often a waitlist. DAVIEL asked after the Thesis Bootcamp for Fine Arts. Munro noted that it is still structured production time which is useful across disciplines, as well as workshops on mental health, citation help, etc.

KAZMI asked after increasing accessibility for the gallery spaces for the public, as well as as a display space for student artists. MUNRO noted that she can provide an update on use of space procedures, which are currently updating.

JOHNSON noted that she uses tech rentals, resume services, writing assistance, mezzanines for grading, etc. However, for online services, JOHNSON also noted a need for Japanese language resources, including academic works.

STANDING ITEMS

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the November 28, 2023 GRC meeting as presented.

M/S: JOHNSON/QUALTER

CARRIED

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

LEAD: WEBB on behalf of FISCHER

REF DOCS: Executive Board Reports Folder

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

MOTION: to approve the November Board Reports.

To approve the following top-ups for the Executive Board:

\$700 to Wyatt Maddox

\$500 to Greg Gaube

\$200 to Sam Fielder

\$200 to Lindsay Beal

\$200 to Mitch Nascimento

\$100 to Maggie Lawton

M/S: Stipend Review Committee / SAWCHUK

CARRIED

B. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES

LEAD: GAUBE

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) 6:50

LEAD: TURNER

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: to elect the following graduate student representatives to UVic committees:

*Committee: Andy Farquharson Teaching Excellence Award for graduate students
Member: none (KYLA TO FOLLOW UP WITH LAUREN)*

*Committee: UVic Accessibility Committee
Member: Hannah BROWN
M/S: LAWTON/SAWCHUK
CARRIED*

C. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION

LEAD: GAUBE

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!

FIELDER shouted out his department (Physics and Astronomy)'s representatives who have a dropbox set up to collect student feedback. GAUBE also recommended Grad Reps bring event posters to their department. JOHNSON recommended working with some of the friendlier profs both in and out of your department.

D. NOTICES OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

LEAD: GAUBE

QUALTER raised inviting CUPE 4163 to the January GRC meeting.

E. IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

LEAD: GUABE

Next Meeting: GSS Semi-Annual General Meeting! March 19, 2024

- Agenda to be posted: March 5, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: January 23, 2024

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of Jan 9
- Agenda to be posted: Jan 16

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: The GSS will be closed for Winter Break.

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 6:16pm.

M/S: GAUBE/LAWTON

CARRIED

X



Wyatt MADDOX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X



Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director