

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
Graduate Representative Council

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: GSS BOARD ROOMS OR ZOOM

JANUARY 23 2024, 5-7 PM

Executive Board PRESENT:

Chair: Wyatt Maddox

Vice Chair/Director of Communications: Greg Gaube

Director of Finance: Samuel Fielder

Director of Services: Mitch Nascimento

Executive Director (non-voting): Kyla Turner

Elected Academic Unit Reps Present

Anthropology: Rachel Hooton	Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies:	Law: Katarina Sawchuk	Public Health and Social Policy:
Art History: Sarah Roberts	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:	Exercise Science, Phys. & Health Ed:	Mechanical Engineering:	Sociology:
Business:	French:	Music: Olivia Charette	Social Work:
Chemistry: Nick Roberts	Geography:	Neuroscience: Dhwani Sura	Theatre:
Child and Youth Care:	Germanic and Slavic Studies:	Nursing:	Visual Arts:
Civil Engineering: Sanaz Ajabshir	Greek and Roman Studies: Ben Watts-Wooldridge	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: Katie Jamson & Stacey Edmonson	History: Abigail Romano	Physics and Astronomy: Jade Fischer Jonathan Qualter	Other Programs:
Economics:	Indigenous Education:	Psychology: Cian Dabrowski & Tara Cooper	Interdisciplinary Studies:

Guests: Representatives from the Indigenous Governance Program – Jack and Dr. Dawn Smith;

Recorder: Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator and Kyla Turner

Regrets Received: Lindsay Beal, Director of Student Affairs; Jasmine Padam; Petranella Daviel; Dominique Maucieri

Absent without regrets: Jessica Ziakin Cook; Sushant Suresh; Maggie Lawton; Harvey MacKenzie; Monika Mikhail; Aleksandra Waliszewska; Haopeng Ren; Maziyar Khadivi & Diogo Bravo; Gina Gabel; Iman Fadaei

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by MADDUX at 5:08pm.

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 MADDUX.

INFORMAL PRESENTATION

The Indigenous Governance (IGOV) program attended the meeting until 5:25pm to promote the new Indigenous Governance programs at a graduate level, including both graduate degrees and certificates. February 15, 2024 is the application deadline for the new PhD stream. Jack and Dr. Smith asked for GRC reps to promote the programs within their departments and to other grad students.

FIELDER asked after enrolment requires for the certificate program. IGOV noted that students in Law and Political Sciences have slightly different requirements due to program overlap but all students are welcome. Another GRC rep asked after summer availability for certificate courses. IGOV responded that they will be rolling out further teaching models in the coming years but for the moment the program is running in person and primarily in Winter terms. Dr. Smith highlighted the career potentials for this program for grad students looking to work within Indigenous communities to build competencies in Indigenous knowledge, governance, and ways of being and knowing.

Another GRC rep asked after the courses available within the program, which were answered. Another GRC rep asked after artistic expressions within the IGOV programs as some Fine Arts students (and other students with an artistic background) may be especially interested. IGOV answered that they have artists working within the program and art as a way of learning and knowing is valued but there's not officially arts-stream for the program. Dr. Smith noted that the PhD program includes an Indigenous language requirement, which can include later year undergrad or one-on-one mentorship with a current language keeper.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: Executive Board/BURTON

CARRIED

TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER

Today's timekeeper was: ROBERTS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE

GSS Membership: As of January 23, 2024, the GSS has 2968 members.

Meeting Quorum: With 3 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 13.

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

Welcome to new GRC reps!

REPORTS AND OPEN DIALOGUE

A. CHAIR'S REMARKS

MADDOX will update GRC on the goings on of the Executive Board.

MADDOX reported that the Faculty of Grad Studies has brought back the high-demand 3 Minute Thesis program, which allows students to compete provincially and federally.

MADDOX also noted that CUPE4163's union drive for research assistants is now live and we encourage everyone to get their peers to sign union cards.

MADDOX reports on the recent Operational Relations meeting, including forthcoming changes from the Campus Planning committee (expanding the Engineering building and the new Indigenous Law Centre), library infrastructure (making space for collaborative learning).

ROBERTS asked after an organizational response from UVic regarding the two snow-related mid-day closures with UVic. MADDOX provided an update that student concerns have been raised to UVIC.

GAUBE requested an update on the proposed new dorm building, as UVic has changed their plans from a 500 bed graduate dorm to a 400 bed pod-style dorm with an additional 100 studio apartments for "upper year students" including 3rd and 4th year undergrads as well as grad students. MADDOX provided an update that we will be strongly urging the Province and UVic to have a designated grad dorm and laid out the series of arguments that we feel will be effective in rolling back some of the changes to the initial graduate dorm plan. GAUBE pointed out that we are looking for further anecdotes for concerns in joint undergrad/grad dorms.

TURNER interrupted loudly with reminder to apply for Department Grants!

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

- Appeals: FIELDER Appeals met and reviewed 1 appeal. Appeals committee expects a heavier load in February after the opt-in/out deadline.
- Bylaw & Policy: MADDOX BPC has prepared about half a dozen bylaw changes for the Board this week and for the SAGM. These changes are minor but high-impact.
- Communications: GAUBE Comms Comm has received quotes for welcome package materials.
- Events: NASCIMENTO A lot of heavy-lifting for event planning has already been done. The standing events are running as expected and getting good attendance. NASCIMENTO noted that February is Winter Pride in the Grad House and there will be a series of events including drag shows, queer trivia, etc. GAUBE reminded GRC reps to collect and distribute event posters which are always available outside the front office.
- Finance: FIELDER Fin. Comm has been preparing board and staff consultations on the budget that are coming up in the next week. Fin Comm will use these consultations to finalize a draft budget for approval at the SAGM.
- Student Affairs: BEAL gave regrets. QUALTER provided an update on the climate action working group, which will be meeting for the second time in the next week. KAZMI updated that the lactation friendlier campus project is underway.
- Stipend Review: FISCHER SRC is meeting tomorrow.
- Electoral Officer: BURTON no report.

B. GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS

MOTION: RESOLVED the 2023-24 GRC reps are removed from the following committees:

Stipend Review: Rosemary Webb
M/S: ROBERTS/GARCIMARTIN-CARMONA
CARRIED

C. OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS

LEAD: MADDOX AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

DABOWSKI started with an update on CUPE4163's unionization drive for graduate research assistants. She highlighted the forthcoming events and the need to get union cards signed. She distributed materials for our GRC reps to encourage the unionization drive. ROBERTS asked after the intended structure of units within CUPE4163, which DABOWSKI answered. MADDOX asked after non-student research assistants. DABOWSKI clarified that, based off the SFU and UBC unionization drives for RAs, that 4163 decided to focus on graduate research assistants for the current campaign. FIELDER asked after where folks should go for more information, which is organizeuvic.cupe.ca. PALAPARTY asked after the inclusion of undergrads, but the current drive is for graduate student research assistants. Another GRC rep asked after Arts students. DABOWSKI clarified that all grad student research assistants can reach out to CUPE for more info.

ROBERTS advertised the forthcoming graduate conference from the Art History and Visual Studies department and encouraged all interested folks to apply if their studies included any elements of visual arts or art history. The conference is March 16-17.

CHARETTE advertised the many, many concerts happening within the Music department right now.

ROMANO request a link to the Art History and Visual Studies conference.

QUALTER asked after the FGS Supervision Policy review committee, which MADDOX provided.

GARCIMARTIN-CARMONA asked after the UVic Multi-Factor Authentication program. He noted that UVic is looking to extend the time between log-in requests.

PALAPARTY noted that Career Services is coming into Wednesday Coffees for drop ins.

BREAK – 5 MINUTES

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. EVENTS FOR THE SEMESTER – WINTER PRIDE

Lead: NASCIMENTO

For: Discussion

NASCIMENTO promoted the Winter Pride events which have expanded significantly this year. We'll be bringing back queer trivia night, sex toy bingo, and drag events. This year, there will be four drag shows for a brand new drag competition (Robin's Drag Race)! We've also added a zine making workshop, queer tango workshops, queer erotica writing night, etc.

NASCIMENTO also noted that the end of term party dates are not yet locked in.

KAZMI asked after Black History Month events.

2. FORTHCOMING BOARD ELECTION

Lead: all board members

For: Discussion

Board members to answer: what is it that you do as a board member? What's something you've gotten out of being on the board that you wouldn't have gotten in your degree?

The Board promoted their own positions as well as the new positions that will be available in the next board term. A GRC member asked about board workloads. MADDOX noted that the board restructure is intended to re-balance board workloads. BURTON noted that board members who have GRC experience are very effective.

3. WELCOME KITS AND GRC ORIENTATIONS

Lead: GAUBE

For: Discussion

GAUBE discussed his plan for a welcome kit for new students, including tote bags, agenda/dayplanner, brochures, bookmarks, etc.

GRC members recommended campus maps inclusive of gender-inclusive washrooms, whistles for safety, clubs information, things to do around town or a coffee passport, key chain/lanyards, etc. GAUBE invited further suggestions by email to his email gssdcomm@uvic.ca.

STANDING ITEMS

D. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the December 12, 2023 GRC meeting as presented.

M/S: ROMANO/QUALTER

CARRIED

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

LEAD: Chair SRC

REF DOCS: Executive Board Reports Folder

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

Foregone as SRC has not yet met.

B. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES

LEAD: MADDOX

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

- UVic Search and Hiring Committees: MADDOX reported on the Faculty of Graduate Studies Associate Dean hiring committee. They are doing preferential hiring for a female presenting member as all current FGS Ads are male presenting. Applicants must be currently tenured faculty members.

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

LEAD: TANVEER

Grad Councillors are asked to sit on at least one UVic Committee to ensure graduate student interests are represented. There is currently 1 vacancy 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: Appointment Committee for the Chair of the Department of Theatre
Member:
M/S:

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

LEAD: MADDUX

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!

D. NOTICES OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

LEAD: MADDUX

E. IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

LEAD: MADDUX

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

- Agenda to be posted: March 5, 2024

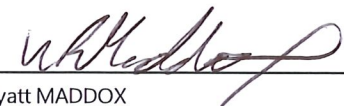
Next GRC Meeting: February 27, 2024

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of Feb 13
- Agenda to be posted: Feb 20

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: The GSS will be closed for Reading Break in February.

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm.
M/S: MADDUX/WEBB
CARRIED

X 
Wyatt MADDUX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X 
Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director