

*University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society*

## Executive Board

### (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

FEB 8, 2024

#### **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:** International Centre for Students (ICS) and Global Community teams: Tricia Best, Executive Director; Carmencita Duna, Associate Director; Theresa Lundy, Global Community Advisor

### STANDING ITEMS PART 1

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:31am by MADDOX.

#### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MADDOX offered a territorial acknowledgement.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*

*M/S: GAUBE/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

### NEW BUSINESS

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#### 1. INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR STUDENTS AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES MEET UP

Lead: ICS and GC

For: Discussion

MADDOX asked after housing for limited term exchange students studying at UVic for less than 2 semesters. These students are not eligible for the residence lottery, so what other services are available? BEST noted that they have limited housing available, particularly targeting younger students for homestays, etc. ICS also advocates directly to Residence Services where there is need and available residence units. ICS also has informal student housing networks (e.g. outgoing students going abroad subletting, international students seeking additional roommate(s), etc.) MADDOX noted concerns around the increase in spam/scam housing advertisers. BEST noted that Settlement Advisors are able to advise on what to look for in searching for housing. Mayah Stratton, ICS's Settlement Advisor, recently hosted a workshop on what to look for in

housing and red flags to avoid. LUNDY noted that scam awareness is part of their orientation sessions for incoming international students. DUNA noted that these services weren't just targeted at housing, but also financial services like income tax, etc. BEST said that the UVic international Facebook group is an excellent hub for informal peer support.

LUNDY gave an overview of the three teams within ICS: Global Community dealing with sociocultural issues, International Student Advising dealing with settlement and immigration issues, and International Exchange Program dealing with outgoing students.

GAUBE asked after ICS's housing advocacy. BEST noted that this wasn't just a university issue, but a community one. ICS targets the local community to open housing and create a supportive environment for international students arriving in our communities. BEST noted that there is a huge gap for housing specifically that they discuss with UVic leadership regularly, and that the next dorm proposal will likely take years to come to fruition whereas community relations might open within in the next few years. GAUBE asked after international standards for student housing. BEST noted that we are middle of the road for student housing in BC between completely hands-off and full student housing. LUNDY also noted that ICS is expanding their Settlement Advising staff team, which focuses on housing.

MADDOX asked after the new IRCC regulations on international students. DUNA reviewed the issue: IRCC has capped student visa applications per province, the province's have discretion to allocate these visas among their PSIs. DUNA noted that regulations for short-term students (visiting graduate research students, etc.) are still uncertain.

TURNER asked after developments within the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education regarding the international student caps after the Minister for Post-Secondary Education resigned her position. DUNA and BEST noted that there was previously the Ministry was looking to target for-profit colleges for the international student caps. However, the 2022 cabinet shuffle put a pause on two years of work on creating an international education strategy for BC, so the new Minister could bring change to current plans.

BEST asked for key concerns that the board is seeing. MADDOX noted the restriction on off-campus work hours. NASCIMENTO and GAUBE asked after further collaboration with Global Community on events. LUNDY was very eager. NASCIMENTO and LUNDY agreed to set a meeting with the new Director of Student Life as part of the board transition. LUNDY also asked for assistance in recruiting grad student volunteers for conversation partners. NASCIMENTO agreed to push for volunteers at GRC. BEAL noted that Wednesday Coffee is a great opportunity to recruit volunteers and a communication partner volunteer is already a regular at Wednesday Coffee.

## 2. BUDGET APPROVAL

Lead: FIELDER

Reference: 2024-25 Proposed Budget

For: Decision

*Motion: to approve the 2024-25 budget for presentation at the March 19, 2024 SAGM*

*M/S: BEAL/GAUBE*

Discussion:

FIELDER presented the draft budget. Changes made from the budget we used to consult included a 1% enrolment decrease, and slight decreases to Advertising, Department Grants, and GRC meetings, and a slight increase to other Events.

GAUBE asked after patio renovation and A/V.

CARRIED

### 3. REFERENDUM QUESTION APPROVAL

Lead: TURNER

For: Decision

*Motion: to approve the following referendum question for the March 2024 referendum cycle:*

*Question 1 Information:*

*Prior to 2020, the GSS extended health and dental insurance was only applied to tuition accounts of full-time, on-campus grad students. All other grad students could opt in to coverage. In Summer 2020, the GSS moved to assess all full-time graduate students for extended health and dental insurance regardless of their on-/off-campus status. While this kept the most people insured over the pandemic as UVic moved to online learning, it is now increasing administrative work for distance students who must opt out of insurance coverage annually. The vast majority of full-time, distance students opt out of insurance coverage. GSS staff have gone from processing ~200 opt outs each September to over 1000. By assessing only full-time, on-campus students with GSS insurance, we eliminate paperwork for both members and staff. Part-time and Off-campus students will still be able access GSS extended health and dental benefits by opting in.*

*Do you support changing the assessment criteria for extended health and dental insurance on tuition accounts to include only full-time, on-campus students?*

*M/S: GAUBE/NASCIMENTO*

CARRIED

### 4. IN-CAMERA SESSIONS: PERSONNEL

Lead: MADDOX

For: Discussion – Results of ED performance review

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## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented.*

*M/S: GAUBE/NASCIMENTO*

CARRIED

### E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

**Note:** To ensure motion log is updated, ensure completed items are reported in the minutes.

**Items assigned to board members that Kyla thinks are complete or abandoned will be listed below and highlighted in yellow.** If there's an item you were assigned below highlighted in yellow, please confirm if the task was completed, revoked, or abandoned!

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

Jan 11 - TASK: TURNER to recirculate the advocacy letter on improving care at the SWC to the Student Wellness Centre and Government Relations offices for their approval then send the letter to the full recipient list.

Jan 25 - TASK: MADDOX to respond regarding the Iranian Student Project Fund Management and suggest they seek support from the Student Affairs portfolio at UVic.

Jan 25 - TASK: GAUBE to meet with CUPE4163 regarding the request for endorsement and invite Petranella.

#### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

#### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Alliance of BC Students – International Students and Housing Crisis Statement

Item 2: FGS Council Election Changes

*Motion: to receive the correspondence.*

*M/S: GAUBE/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

**TASK: TURNER to add FGS Council Elections to GRC agenda**

#### H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: [Meeting Debrief Template](#)

1. Agenda Planning – Feb GRC Agenda

#### I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

#### J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

### CLOSING ITEMS

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#### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX reported on the Graduate Executive Council – they are changing the name of Fellowship Awards to just Fellowships. Award dispersal timing is a department level decision. There will now be a reduced workload, full-time registration option across campus. Stipends will still end at the same time as full-time, full-workload students.

Director of Communications: GAUBE

Director of Finance: FIELDER

Director of Services: NASCIMENTO

Director of Student Affairs: BEAL

Executive Director: TURNER

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: Feb 22, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: Feb 27, 2024 (Last GRC of the board term!)

AGM: March 19, 2024

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 10:59am.*

*M/S: GAUBE/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

X   
Wyatt MADDUX  
GSS Chair 2023-24

X   
Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director

